Other News

1 February

he Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, said that the Taliban have only allowed CNN to open its offices in Afghanistan.

6 February

Osama bin Laden, has brought a doctor of Afghanistan to treat him for serious kidney problems, a London based Arabic newspaper reported.

12 February

Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden appeared in Jalalabad after he arrived in the city from Taliban's headquarters of Kandahar. Hundreds of people and elders of the area warmly received the Saudi exile on his arrival.

14 February

The Taliban welcomed home 73 hostages released from a hijacked Afghan jet with flowers, turbans and copies of the Holy Quran. A chartered Kampuchea Airlines aircraft carrying the group from London touched down at Kandahar airport. Some 74 hostages have asked for asylum in Britain.

15 February

The Taliban administration in Afghanistan has made arrangements to facilitate the intending pilgrims inside the country besides opening a centre for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. More than 10,000 Afghans are expected to perform Haj this year. The United Nation has imposed sanctions on Afghanistan but has now allowed the Taliban to operate 90 Haj flights to Saudi Arabia.

16 February

Freed hostages from a hijacked Afghan plane said they were bullied by immigration officials and forced to leave Britain, The Times newspaper reported Tuesday, quoting interpreters.

16 February

The United States has decided to grant visa and asylum to 6,000 Afghan widows, reported Radio Tehran. The decision was taken after the efforts of the US president's wife, Hillary Clinton and the women rights organisation in the United States.

18 February

Afghanistan's national art gallery was re-opened for the first time in eight years with 100 paintings, although in

line with the country's strict Islamic law, with none showing living creatures. Officials said more than 600 other exhibits are still locked in warehouses because they show living beings.

23 February

Afghanistan's Ariana airline made its first external flight since the imposition of the UN sanctions in November when a plane carrying 127 pilgrims left for Saudi Arabia.

28 February

All the 79 remaining passengers of the hijacked Afghan plane, which landed at a London airport earlier this month, are to be deported after their applications for asylum were found to be bogus.



Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief



News Summary - March 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

2 March

Construction work on the Kabul-Torkham highway has been suspended due to economic problems faced by the Taliban, reported radio Tehran.

2 March

The French parliament in collaboration with a study group on Afghanistan organised a conference to discuss the Afghanistan situation with particular reference to narcotics and terrorism, reported VoA.

2 March

A permanent Working Group with a secretariat in the office of the Commissioner for Afghan Refugees in Peshawar is being established to facilitate the repatriation of the Afghans to their homeland.

3 March

Afghanistan overtook Myanmar as the world's biggest opium-producer in 1999 because of good weather, high prices at planting and the connivance of the ruling Taliban. US President Bill Clinton extended a ban on most forms of US aid to Afghanistan, citing the failure of the Taliban to crack down on opium and heroin trafficking.

4 March

The southern Afghan region of Kandahar is suffering its worst drought in 39 years, triggering fears of an outbreak of diarrhoea and other diseases, the UN said.

4 March

A three-member Taliban team, led by Deputy Commerce Minister, Moulavi Fazal Mohammad Faizan, arrived for discussions on the Transit Trade Agreement issue with Pakistani officials.

6 March

The Taliban have sought the co-operation and help of the UN aid agencies to overcome the drought crisis, which has badly hit southern and western Afghanistan.

7 March

The Iranian government have reportedly agreed to allow the import of goods from Afghanistan.

9 March

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP) jointly launched a nursing training project in Afghanistan.

11 March

Afghan Minister of Planning, Qari Deen Mohammad, asked the NGOs to increase their efforts in rebuilding the war-battered Afghanistan.

11 March

Japan is ready for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged Afghanistan if peace is established, according to a Japanese diplomat based in Islamabad.

12 March

Pakistan called on the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide 20,000 tons of wheat for two months to meet the food requirements of some 1.5 million Afghan refugees.

16 March

Afghan notables and elders from Tagab district of Kabul Province asked the NGOs to restart their developmental activities to help the Afghans who recently returned to different parts of the country.

17 March

Turkey has donated US\$ 15,000 worth of high technology medical aid to Ataturk Children's Hospital in Kabul in order to ease the negative effects of war on the civilian population.

20 March

Two special flights carrying five thousands sheep caresses (sacrificial meat) from Jeddah arrived in the NWFP. The Afghan Commissionerate distributed the

sacrificial meat to Afghan refugee families in Kachi Gari, Nasir Bagh and Badabir camps.

21 March

An agreement was signed between Afghanistan's Communication Ministry and a Chinese firm to revive the G.D. Paul telephone system in Afghanistan, reported BBC.

21 March

UNHCR has provided a one-time contribution of \$US 100,000 to the Afghan University in Peshawar.

24 March

Afghan schools reopened without female attendance for the fourth consecutive year since the Taliban hard-line Islamic fundamentalists marched into the capital. Taliban officials said they hoped girls schools would reopen when "problems" scaled down.

25 March

Senior Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP said that the rural areas of certain provinces in southern Afghanistan (Kandahar, Helmand and Nimroz) have been affected due to drought, which could ultimately result in the outbreak of diseases.

25 March

Various UN organisations have jointly chalked out a well-organised community-based poverty alleviation programme to promote peace in Afghanistan, UN officials said.

28 March

The Pakistani government has given special permission to Afghanistan to import 6,000 tons of sugar in the year 2000.

28 March

As many as 465 Afghan refugees have been repatriated on Monday, 27 March 2000, said an official of the UNHCR.

30 March

The UN weekly update informed that ACBAR, ANCB and ICC wrote a letter to the UN Secretary General, expressing concern over sanctions imposed against Afghanistan.

30 March

A telephone conference between Peshawar and the US on the topic of "Rehabilitation of Education in Afghanistan" was organised by the UN Public Affairs Programme for Afghanistan at the US consulate in Peshawar.

30 March

Around 676 people from 127 refugee families have been repatriated in connection with the UNHCR repatriation programme.

Military Developments

2 March

The Taliban and the opposition troops clashed north of Kabul and on the border with Tajikistan, the heaviest fighting in seven months, witnesses and western sources said.

3 March

Opposition fighters lost ground at Imam Sahib and Sher Khan Bandar, the opposition admitted.

4 March

The anti-Taliban alliance said it had seized several key areas in strategic Dara-e-Souf valley in northern Province of Samangan.

6 March

The Afghan opposition alliance claimed it had recaptured two key towns from the Taliban in a counter-attack in the northern Province of Kunduz.

8 March

The Taliban militia admitted the opposition forces recaptured two important northern Afghan towns, Sher Khan Bandar and Imam Sahib, in a counter offensive.

12 March

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia attacked opposition troops near the Salang highway in northern Baghlan Province. The Taliban claimed to have gained some ground in the fighting around Doshaakh.

15 March

Afghan opposition fighters repulsed two dawn attacks by soldiers from the Taliban militia in Baghlan Province, said Assem Suhail, a spokesman for the opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

20 March

Afghanistan's anti-Taliban Northern Alliance claimed to have recaptured territories in a winter offensive against the ruling Taliban militia in Sang Charak district.

23 March

Afghan opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood met with Abdul Rashid Dostam in Uzbekistan to discuss the possibility of the anti-Taliban military chief's return to Afghanistan.

Political Developments

1 March

Pakistan has renewed support for the United Nations peace efforts in Afghanistan and pledged to back peace efforts by the new UN envoy to Afghanistan.

2 March

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban have decided to send a delegation under former Information Minister, Mulla Amir Khan Mutaqqi's leadership to take part in the OIC-sponssred peace talks with the Afghan opposition in Jeddah.

5 March

Pakistan recommended lifting sanctions against the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan to help curb the region's pervasive drug trade.

5 March

In Afghanistan a new group, the Islamic Shura for Reconciliation and Liberation, has been formed to replace the Taliban and establish its rule in Kabul.

5 March

Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani, Chief of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, in a detailed meeting with Pakistan Foreign Minister exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, particularly the Afghanistan situation.

5 March

The UN Security Council expressed dismay at the renewal of fighting in Afghanistan, implying that a Taliban offensive is to blame.

6 March

Senior Taliban leaders, deputy Foreign Minister and Mines Minister, held talks with visiting Turkemenistan Foreign Minister in Islamabad, informed officials confirmed.

6 March

The Taliban spokesman in New York, Abdul Hakeem Mujahid, accused the UN of pursuing double standards

and holding a partial attitude. He said the world body wanted the war in Afghanistan to continue.

6 March

The state-run Shariat Radio started broadcasting a 15 minute Russian language programme as part of the ruling Taliban strategy to counter the media campaign against their government.

7 March

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban criticised the UN for its alleged failure to stop foreign interference and restore peace in the war-torn country, said a report.

8 March

Fatana Ishaq Gillani, Chairperson of Afghan Women's Council, appealed to the US President Bill Clinton to also visit the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan during his upcoming visit to the region.

8 March

Representatives of the Taliban regime began peace talks hosted in Jeddah by the OIC.

9 March

The OIC failed to get assurances from the Taliban to hold unconditional talks with the opposition Northern Alliance.

9 March

The UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, denied any reluctance on his part to address the Afghanistan issue.

10 March

A UN report accused the Taliban of violating women's rights with "unabated severity". UN rapporteur, Kamal Hossain, provided testimony about ethnic Hazara and Tajik women being rounded up in trucks and taken from the regions of Mazar, Pol-e-Khomri and Shamali to neighbouring Pakistan and the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar.

10 March

Afghanistan's warring factions ended peace talks without any progress but with an agreement to pursue the process next month, the OIC official said.

11 March

The Japanese government invited representatives of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance and former King Zahir Shah while a similar delegation of ruling Taliban is already in Japan.

12 March

The Taliban delegation headed by former Information Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, held talks with the Iranian deputy Foreign Minister in Jeddah on ways to improve relations between the two countries.

13 March

A new bid to bring peace to Afghanistan by Japan proved a non-starter after an outright refusal by the ruling Taliban to engage in talks with its Northern Alliance rivals.

13 March

Afghanistan Foreign Minister, Mulla Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, rejected a UN report that accused the Taliban government of violating women's rights with unabated severity. He questioned the methods used to arrive at such conclusions and described the UN rapporteur Kamal Hossain, who compiled the report, as an ignorant and incompetent man who is working solely for money.

14 March

Maulana Fazlur Rahman, central amir of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, reached Kandahar to discuss matters relating to US President's visit to the region besides other religious, political and international affairs with the Taliban high command.

14 March

Forty Afghan nationals, extradited from Saudi Arabia, were sent back to Afghanistan, political authorities in Khyber Agency said.

15 March

The ruling Taliban once again reshuffled the cabinet by changing the portfolios of a number of ministers, but no new minister have been inducted into the cabinet.

15 March

At least 32 opposition commanders along with their supporters and huge quantities of arms and ammunition defected to the Taliban on the outskirts of Laghman Province.

16 March

Afghan leader, Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, appealed to Iran's leadership to end a mass deportation of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

22 March

The Iranian government rejected the reports that its troops are forcibly sending the Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan, reported VoA.

23 March

To continue the dialogue for finding a peaceful settlement of the two decades-long Afghan problem among the warring groups, the next round of Afghan leaders moot is expected to be held shortly.

23 March

In light of an important meeting recently held in Rome, Italy, former King Mohammad Zahir Shah announced names of various committee members who will establish contacts with Afghans and other related parties to convince them to participate in and allow a traditional Loya Jirga meeting to end the crisis in Afghanistan.

24 March

Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, said Washington should deal directly with the Taliban over the extradition issue of Osama bin Laden instead of pressing Pakistan.

25 March

The Chairman of the Supreme Council of the IEA, Mulla Mohammad Rabbani, sent separate congratulation messages to President Rafiq Tarar and Chief Executive General Parvaz Musharraf on Pakistan Day, reported radio Kabul.

26 March

Bulgaria announced it is joining an international sanctions regime against the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan for its failure to extradite Osama bin Laden.

27 March

Former Afghan Minister and Chief of Ghor tribe, Abdul Qadar Imami, welcomed the inclusion of the situation in Afghanistan at the meeting between President Bill Clinton and the Chief Executive of Pakistan. He said that both Pakistan and the US should find a durable solution to the conflict.

29 March

The UN Security Council is working to ensure a reduction in arms supplied to Afghanistan and explore ways to improve the situation in the country.

30 March

Chief Executive General Parvez Musharraf is expected to pay an official visit to Afghanistan in the third week of April for high-level talks with the Taliban supreme leader, Mulla Mohammad Omar on a wide-range of issues including terrorism and the possibilities of bringing Osama bin Laden to justice.

Security Matters

1 March

A bomb, planted at a parking lot outside the Information Ministry, exploded at 6.30 p.m. in the Afghan capital Kabul causing damage to a government building but no causalities, officials said. The explosion, the second in a week, shattered the windows of nearby buildings, an official of the ruling Taliban militia said.

3 March

The Taliban's supreme leader Mulla Muhammad Omar has given instructions for the finalisation of a commission to combat terrorism.

3 March

Two Afghan refugee schoolboys were killed and two wounded when a grenade they were playing with exploded in a classroom of their school in Quetta.

3 March

Security officials in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan seized 80 kg of heroin after a gun-battle which killed one smuggler.

4 March

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister, Wakil Ahmed Mutawakil, in a press statement reiterated his government's stance on terrorism by saying they had not and would never allow any terrorist activity from the Afghan soil, reported AIP.

4 March

The Afghan Commissionerate has sent a list of Afghan nationals suspected of having sophisticated weapons to the NWFP Chief Secretary to recover launching weapons from Afghan refugees camps.

13 March

A young Afghan was taken into custody by the Taliban in Jalalabad for allegedly conspiring to blow up the vehicle of Nangarhar Governor and senior Taliban leader, Mulla Mohammad Kabir.

14 March

Two civilians were killed and a number of others wounded when Taliban fighter jets bombed Sanchorak City in Saripul Province.

14 March

Six unknown armed robbers looted as many as 40 Afghan labourers while they were returning to their residences and escaped with thousands of rupees in Peshawar.

15 March

Afghan and Tajik border guards met to discuss the spillover from recent fighting between Taliban forces and the opposition in northern Afghanistan.

15 March

Coast guards arrested 43 Iranian and Afghan nationals who were trying to enter Kuwait illegally by sea and seized their three boats.

21 March

Pakistanis living near the Pak-Afghan border in Balochistan have sought justice from the Taliban authorities by registering cases of murder and injustice with Afghan authorities, showing no-confidence in what they call the corrupt police system in Pakistan.

27 March

Iranian police killed nine Afghan drug traffickers and bandits in gun-battles near the border with Afghanistan, Iranian radio reported.

27 March

Former Governor of Herat and top Afghan opposition leader, Ismail Khan, escaped from a jail in Kandahar, Taliban-run Shariat radio reported.

28 March

Afghanistan ruling Taliban launched an extensive search to trace key opposition commander, Ismail Khan. The Taliban conducted a thorough search and combed the entire southern city of Kandahar to find any clue but to no avail. The Taliban security forces searched the offices of the UN and several International and National NGOs in Kandahar city.

28 March

The son of Ismail Khan, former Governor of Herat, accused the Taliban for hatching a conspiracy to eliminate his father by spreading news of his escape.

29 March

The Taliban said that they will give a reward (did not specify the amount) to those helping in the arrest of commander Ismail Khan who escaped from the Kandahar jail.

29 March

As many as 7 people including six teenage girls were killed and 23 other were seriously injured as a result of a high intensity explosion inside a general store in Torkham, a town situated on the Pak-Afghan border in the Khyber Agency of the tribal belt.

29 March

The UN decided to withdraw its international staff working in Kandahar following the storming of their offices by Taliban personnel, said a UN official in Islamabad. The Taliban were apparently looking for opposition commander Ismail Khan and Haji Zahir who escaped from a prison in Kandahar.

30 March

Afghan opposition leader Ismail Khan, who escaped from a Taliban jail in Kandahar, reached safety in Iran, diplomats of the ousted Afghan government still recognised by Tehran told AFP.

30 March

Five UN officials were evacuated to Islamabad following a decision by the organisation to withdraw its international staff form Kandahar, spiritual headquarters of the Taliban in south-western Afghanistan.

31 March

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said the UN had unnecessarily closed its offices in the ruling militia's stronghold of Kandahar. The Taliban Information Minister, Mawlavi Qudratullah Jamal, said the raids on the UN premises that triggered the pullout were action of individuals which were not authorised by the Taliban leadership.

Other News

2 March

Eight Afghan citizens who arrived in Britain on a hijacked jet will be allowed to remain, but asylum appeals on behalf of 32 others have been rejected, the British government officials said.

3 March

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said they would welcome the return home of passengers of a hijacked Afghan jet, but urged Britain to punish the gunmen who forced the plane to land in London last month.

3 March

The remaining passengers of Afghanistan's Ariana airline are expected to return home, said the Pakistan-based British High Commission.

4 March

An Afghan passenger plane hijacked to Britain last month was returned to Afghanistan, but with only the crew aboard, said a Taliban Aviation official.

5 March

Pilots of the hijacked Afghan passenger plane complained of nasty treatment at the hands of the British authorities.

5 March

The Afghan authorities paid \$US 10,000 to the British government as parking charges for the Afghan hijacked airliner.

6 March

At least 70 children died of measles in two villages of Goron and Chorak in northern Badakhshan Province.

8 March

The Australian government granted temporary asylum to over 700 Afghans who have recently arrived there illegally in ships.

8 March

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban torched a large quantity of heroin (355 kilograms) and hashish (4,350 kilograms) in the southern province of Kandahar, local journalists reported.

13 March

The British government said that 26 passengers of the hijacked Afghan airliner are going to file an appeal against the rejection of their request for political asylum.

· 14 March

Fourteen men charged with hijacking an Afghan airliner to Britain last month appeared briefly before magistrates. Magistrates at Sounthend east of London ordered that the men, all Afghan citizens, be held in custody until their next appearance on April 10.

15 March

Mulla Hameedullah Akhund, Chairman of Afghan Ariana Airlines, said that nearly 9,000 Afghan pilgrims have been airlifted to Saudi Arabia for the Haj, VOA reported.

20 March

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban warned its citizens not to celebrate Nawroz, the fist day of the Persian solar new year.

23 March

Over a dozen religious students in NWFP offered to donate their kidneys to Osama bin Laden, the most wanted man by the US, after reports that he is suffering from renal complications.

29 March

A measles outbreak in Afghanistan's northeastern provinces of Badakhshan and Takhar killed 91 people, many of them children, UN officials said.

31 March

Ajmal Sohail, President of the Afghan Youth Students Union, become the youngest one amongst the Afghan figures who will attend the Cyprus Conference scheduled to be held on 7 April 2000.



Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief



News Summary - April 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

3 April

The Education Co-ordination Organisation opened its first primary school for Afghan refugee children in Bara Khyber Agency.

5 April

Afghanistan hoped that the government and people of Japan would play an active role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. These views were expressed by the Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister, Abdul Rahman Zahid, who received a Japanese delegation at his office in Kabul, reported Bakhtar news agency. The Japanese delegation has recently arrived in Afghanistan for revival of good relations between the two countries.

6 April

Seven Japanese girl scout leaders gave away gift "peace packs" to a large number of Afghan refugee school children in Mianwali.

6 April

Afghanistan and Turkmenistan have signed a cooperation accord to provide power to north-western areas of Afghanistan including Herat bordering Iran.

6 April

The Taliban Deputy Foreign Minster, Abdul Rehman Zahid, at a meeting with UNHCR and UNICEF representatives, has sought more co-operation of the UN in the voluntary repatriation on Afghan refugees and increased humanitarian assistance of donor agencies for the people of Afghanistan, reported Shariat radio.

8 April

The Taliban have destroyed vast areas of poppy crop in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar. They bulldozed the poppy crop on both sides of the Torkham - Jalalabad highway in Momandara area of Nangarhar Province.

8 April

Canada has donated \$ 300,000 to the UN supported efforts to promote the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

8 April

The UNHCR has suspended the return of refugees to the Kandahar area of southern Afghanistan following the withdrawal of its international staff.

9 April

A delegation from ANCB met with the Director General of the Peshawar Development Authority and discussed with him the issue of Afghan refugee schools in Hayatabad.

11 April

About 3,000 Afghan refugees are voluntarily returning home from Iran each week under a February agreement signed by Tehran and the UNHCR, officials at the Iranian Interior Ministry said.

12 April

Two groups of Afghan refuges totalling 740 persons were repatriated from Iran and received by Taliban authorities when they crossed over to Afghanistan and reached Herat.

13 April

A one-day workshop for Afghan refugee students was held in Quetta calling for increased financial support for them to continue their studies.

14 April

The UN officials resumed work in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar after receiving security guarantees from the ruling Taliban.

14 April

The Taliban have laid off thousands of civil servants including all female employees and teachers, officials and workers said.

14 April

Afghan traders have stopped buying sugar from Pakistan as they say its cost is double the international prices.

They are purchasing the commodity from the international market which is reaching the land-locked country through clandestine channels, sources said.

14 April

A convoy of 28 trucks carrying 510 Afghan refugees crossed over to Afghanistan via the Torkham border under the UNHCR sponsored repatriation programme.

18 April

The value of the Afghan currency -Afghani - dived down to an unprecedented low in Peshawar when one lakh being sold against Rs. 84-90 (US\$ 1.66), local currency dealers said.

19 April

Afghanistan and Iran have resumed postal services via Herat after eight years of suspension, BBC reported.

19 April

The Taliban authorities have signed accords with UAE and Chinese companies to revive the communication sector in the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

19 April

The Taliban Communication Ministry has opened a number of fax and telephone centres in the crowded areas of Kabul city so that Afghan families could establish contacts with their relatives living abroad.

19 April

All the classroom materials currently being used by non-governmental organisation, private and official schools and UN-sponsored education programme in Afghanistan are being collected by ACBAR and UNICEF. A two and a half day symposium and exposition of the materials will begin today in Peshawar.

20 April

UNICEF representative for Afghanistan, Louis Georges Arsennault, called upon the international community to change its attitude towards the situation in Afghanistan and help the Afghans in getting education.

22 April

The Taliban authorities and their northern alliance have pledged to observe a cease-fire between May 1 and 3 to enable UNICEF to vaccinate about 4.5 million children against polio.

23 April

The warring sides in Afghanistan appealed for international aid to save lives in three drought-hit southern provinces (Helmand, Uruzgan and Kandahar, and a locust attack in Baghlan Province.

25 April

The Taliban have imposed a ban on business transactions in foreign currency particularly the rupee, said a statement of the Taliban Supreme leader Mulla Mohd Omar broadcast by Radio Shariat.

25 April

The European Union announced a 28 million euro (\$ 26 million) aid package for displaced Afghans, mainly to help their return to their war-torn country.

29 April

CDAP has appealed to the international community, aid agencies and donors for immediate extension of more aid for de-mining programmes and rehabilitation and socioeconomic integration of landmine survivors.

29 April

In southern Afghanistan drought has taken a very serious turn and a team of WFP said that the people direly need food stuffs at least during the next 12 months, BBC reported.

30 April

UNICEF and Save the Children Sweden have joined hands for the development of children in the war-ravaged Afghanistan by imparting training to representatives of various organisations and creating awareness about the rights of children.

Military Developments

8 April

Fighters of the Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and their key foe were involved in heavy clashes north-east of Kabul leaving 85 persons on both sides dead.

9 April

The Taliban have made gains in the strategic Nejrab valley near the northern rival stronghold of Panjshir.

11 April

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban denied reports that militia fighters gained ground in the strategic Nejrab valley near the northern rival stronghold of Panjshir.

12 April

Afghanistan's northern based opposition repulsed a Taliban offensive in northern Jozjan province killing at least 10 Taliban soldiers.



Agency, Co-ordinating Body, for Afghan Relief



News Summary - January 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

7 January

Pakistan announced that it would send 5000 MT of wheat, flour and medicine worth Rs. 10 million as a gift to the government of Afghanistan on the eve of Eid.

11 January

Iranian Red Crescent Society assistance meant for the refugees of northern Afghanistan reached Tajikistan. The representative of the Iranian Red Crescent Society in Tajikistan said that more than one hundred MT of aid including food commodities, clothes and tents would soon be supplied to Afghanistan from Tajikistan.

11 January

The anti-polio campaign will continue till the year 2003 in all parts of Afghanistan in order to fully eradicate the crippling disease from the country, said Paula Claycomb, Information officer at UNICEF in Islamabad.

12 January

Under the emergency food Programme of WFP, 45 trucks carrying wheat crossed into Afghanistan at Torkham border.

12 January

Japan will provide financial support to Afghanistan to the tune of US\$111,377 through the Grass Roots Assistance Scheme. According to the Japanese Embassy, under the agreement the government of Japan will extend grants to three NGO's (ARCAR, IHSAN and MRORA) in order to assist them in the implementation of their projects in the fields of improved wells and installation of hand pumps, construction of water supply systems in rural areas and reconstruction of primary schools for boys and girls.

12 January

The UN and other donor agencies have expedited relief activities in Afghanistan and started relief distributions to some 2500 vulnerable and displeased families in Kabul through the established of community forums. According to the UN weekly update, efforts are also under way to identify and assist 4000 vulnerable

displaced families through the provision of employment under the Labour Intensive public works Programme.

17 January

Pakistan's Chief Executive, General Parvez Musharraf, has ordered the released of goods worth millions of dollar under the Afghan Transit Trade agreement, which were blocked by Benazir Bhutto's government at the Karachi Port four years ago. "Musharraf directed the concerned quarters to allow transportation of 101 containers of goods comprising 211 items, donated by foreign countries as assistance to Afghanistan", informed the Deputy Trade Minister of Afghanistan, Mawlavi Faizan from Kabul.

17 January

Afghanistan's International Phone connection has been revived and for the first time in seven years millions of Afghan refugees living aboard can telephone home. Taliban Minister of Communications Mawlavi, Yar Mohammad Rahimi, said that this was made possible thanks to the reactivation of the country's international telephone code of 0093.

18 January

The SCA has sent a huge quantity of text books and stationary to Afghanistan, which left for Jalalabad and Ghazni provinces from Peshawar on six trucks.

19 January

The value of the Afghani sharply depreciated against foreign currency, particularly against the Pakistani rupee and US dollar (1Rs/1000 Afghanis & 1USD/54000 Afghanis), the BBC reported.

20 January

A high level meeting was held with the Commissioner of Afghan Refugees, Gulzar Khan, in Peshawar, for generating funds for the Afghan university. The meeting was attended by the Additional Secretary of Finance, SAFRON, Sahibzada Khalid, representatives of the US Consulate, the Chief of UNHCR, Islamabad, and representatives of 29 NGO's.

20 January

Pakistan has despatched a second consignment of 11 trucks of wheat flour and one truck of medicine to Kabul.

Sources: The News, Frontier Post and the Nation. ACBAR, 2 Rehman Baba Road, University Town, Peshawar.



Afghan opposition forces seized two districts, Sagha and Shahrak, from the Taliban movement in central Afghanistan.

26 April

The Taliban government claimed to have repulsed three opposition offensives north of Kabul near their bunkers at Bagram air-base, killing six people and arresting 118 others.

28 April

The UN Secretary General's special envoy for Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, expressed concern over reports of a military build-up by the warring Afghan factions.

Political Developments

1 April

Three Afghan opposition leaders, General Rashid Dostum, Abdul Malik and Ahmad Shah Masood, who have fought each other just as much as the ruling Taliban in recent years, dropped their differences and agreed to form a united front, said Dr. Abdullah an anti-Taliban spokesman.

3 April

The UN Special Human Rights Rapporteur for Afghanistan, Dr. Kamal Hussain, has termed the situation in Afghanistan as deteriorating adding that human rights are still being trampled in the war-ravaged country.

3 April

The Afghan opposition denied reports that three key anti-Taliban leaders formed a new coalition to resist the Islamic militia in northern Afghanistan, said Toryalai, spokesman for the opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

5 April

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia has asked Pakistan to arrest and punish the assassins of the Governor of Kunduz.

6 April

A US magazine has quoted Pakistan Interior Minister, Monuddin Haider as saying the "first thing" he will do when he returns home from the US is to travel to Afghanistan and convince the Taliban regime to hand over Osama bin Laden and close terrorist training camps.

6 April

The visiting Iranian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister, Mohsin Aminzadeh, discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest with special focus on Afghanistan with the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar.

7 April

The second round of Afghan peace talks under the umbrella of the OIC will be held next week between the government and the opposition northern alliance in Jeddah.

9 April

UN Security General Personal Representative for Afghanistan met with the Taliban Ambassador, Maualvi Syed Mohammad Haqqani, in Islamabad. The meeting focused on his proposed visit to Afghanistan.

9 April

The UN Security Council threatened to impose further sanctions against Afghanistan's Taliban militia unless it agrees to end fighting and hand over Osama bin Laden for trial for the bombing of two US embassies.

9 April

Senior Iranian official, Ibrahim Tahirian, and Afghanistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Maulavi Haqqani, held talks in Islamabad to remove misunderstandings between the two sides, Afghan and diplomatic sources said.

10 April

The head of Russian Security Council, Sergie Ivanov, said that Ahmad Shah Masood is the member of the legitimate government in Afghanistan and it is the duty of every country to assist the legitimate Afghan government, reported BBC.

11 April

The 13th Non-Aligned Ministerial meeting called for immediate cessation of armed hostilities in Afghanistan and urged all the Afghan parties to hold serious dialogue for a political solution without pre-condition.

II April

The Taliban have termed the visit of the Iranian delegation to Kabul as a good beginning for the countries to exchange delegations and discuss matters of mutual interests

.Chief Executive, General Parvez Musharraf, may visit Afghanistan possibly ahead of a Taliban - Opposition meeting in Jeddah scheduled for May 7 under the auspices of the OIC.

12 April

The Taliban Foreign Minister, Maulavi Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, has sent a letter to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, asking him to refrain Russia from interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

13 April

The former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah, has said that he did not appoint anyone as his envoy adding he would continue efforts for convening Loya Jigra without seeking any position for himself.

13 April

The Taliban leader, Mulla Mohammad Omar, has urged all those countries who have given refuge to displaced Afghans not to expel them forcibly.

15 April

A group of Afghans living abroad, prior to Chief Executive General Parvez Musharraf's expected visit to Afghanistan, will visit Pakistan. These Afghans were nominated under the guidance of Zahir Shah, former Afghan King, during a grand meeting of Afghans in Rome last year.

19 April

Japanese authorities said it was in direct contact with the ruling Taliban and their rivals in an effort to bring reconciliation between the warring Afghan factions.

20 April

German Ambassador to Pakistan, Hans Joachim Daerr, said Pakistan needs to reconsider its Afghan policy, the domestic and international costs of which are very high.

22 April

Afghanistan's warring factions will gather for peace talks in Saudi Arabia from May 17 under the umbrella of the OIC, newspapers reported.

23 April

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban reassured its Central Asian neighbours of non-interference in their affairs while accusing them of backing its opposition.

24 April

Afghanistan has not been invited to the two day communication ministers conference of the Economic

Co-operation Organisation, in Islamabad, officials and diplomatic sources said.

25 April

The Taliban administration in Afghanistan and Iran have signed a co-operation agreement to check growing drug trafficking along the Afghan-Iran border.

25 April

Harkat-e-Islami Afghanistan has hailed the ongoing negotiations among the three Afghan factions to find a durable and peaceful solution to the Afghan conflict.

30 April

Afghan Foreign Minister, Maulavi Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, has complained to the UN envoy on Afghanistan, Franscesc Vendrill that the United Nations is ignoring ground realities in Afghanistan.

Security Matters

Security Matters

2 April

Chagai Militia recovered a huge quantity of ammunition from Patkok Kaur area close to Pak-Afghan border which was being smuggled into Pakistan.

3 April

The political authorities of Khyber Agency arrested three persons including an Arab national on the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham.

5 April

Governor of Northern Afghan Kunduz Province, Arif Khan, was gunned down in Peshawar along with his bodyguard.

12 April

An opposition helicopter crashed near Taloqan in northern Afghanistan killing all 15 people on board, an opposition spokesman said.

12 April

The Iranian security forces killed 23 Afghan drug smugglers and bandits in eastern Iran, the official news agency IRNA reported.

13 April

A Taliban jet fighter crashed in southern Afghanistan during a training mission killing both the pilots, official sources confirmed.

Political authorities have decided to completely seal the borders between Pakistan and Afghanistan during the three days of Muharram mourning (April 15 - 17).

15 April

The Taliban administration in Afghanistan said it has not given any assurance to the UN on the issue of expulsion of Saudi national, Osama bin Laden, and ending of war as demanded by the Security Council.

15 April

Taliban jets bombed Abdozdarra and Abqalan areas of Gosfandi district of Sar-e-Pul Province in northern Afghanistan, reported Radio Tehran.

15 April

Twenty five persons who were arrested two months ago at the Pak-Afghan border were released from the Dera Ismail Khan prison.

16 April

The anti-Taliban Northern Alliance has claimed to have arrested six Taliban commanders along with scores of their supporters in Ghor Province, where fighting has been raging between the rival factions for the last few days.

18 April

At least six people were killed and 13 others seriously injured in a powerful bomb blast in Afghanistan's northern province of Badakhshan.

18 April

At least 40 wooden cabins burnt to ashes in Nasir Bagh camp of Afghan refugees due to short circuit of electricity wires

18 April

Taliban claimed the arrest of two foreigners, Arab nationals, on spying charges. A statement issued in Kandahar said the two men were apprehended in Kabul and brought to Kandahar for investigation.

18 April

The chief of the Afghan air force and 10 airport officials have been arrested for alleged involvement in the escape of former commander Ismail Khan.

20 April

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement and Pakistan are planning a major offensive in the war-torn country, Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Masood said.

22 April

The Afghan opposition northern alliance has accused the Taliban of executing 26 people in Gusfandi district after the area fell to them, reported radio Tehran.

24 April

The authorities in Pakistan have decided to build more than a dozen new check posts along the border with Afghanistan to curb cross-border smuggling.

25 April

Following recent seizure of radioactive nuclear material being smuggled from the former Soviet Union, the US fear that Osama bin Laden is trying to develop an Islamic bomb capable of contaminating large areas for many years.

25 April

Unidentified gunmen killed a former Afghan guerrilla commander, Maulavi Mohammad Siddiqullah, living in Peshawar, police said.

25 April

The Taliban government warned the international community that Russia and some Central Asian countries are preparing to launch aggression against Afghanistan.

28 April

Two armed Afghans were killed in a shoot-out with Russian border guards, the Tajik border guard press service told AFP.



1 April

The British government has approved a 2 million pound Starling payment to help police cover the costs incurred during the Afghan airline hijacking drama at Stansted airport

1 April

At least 22 people drowned when a boat capsized in Kabul river near Akora Khattak.

3 April

The last Buzkushi match of this season was played in Peshawar between two Afghan teams before a sizeable crowd of westerners, Pakistanis and Afghans.

More than 40 Afghan school for boys and girls were closed down in Hayatabad township after Peshawar Development Authority moved against them on public complaints that these had been established in residential areas and were causing problems.

16 April

Following their self created rules the Taliban have imposed a ban on English language and Computer courses in the Nangarhar Province.

20 April

The Taliban who are known for interpretation of the sacred religion of Islam, have now further surprised the rest of the world with an imposition of a ban on leather waistcoats and collars in shirts.

21 April

Moderate Afghan leader, Pit Syed Ahmad Gillani, has announced his support for the forthcoming 2nd World Pashtu Conference.

27 April

Afghanistan's Taliban released around 300 opposition prisoners from Kabul central Pulicharkhi jail under a decree by the ruling militia's Supreme Leader Mulla Mohammad Omar, officials said.

28 April

Water wells were bone dry, camel carcasses rotted in the blistering sun and entire villages in southern Afghanistan talked of leaving the drought-ravaged area for neighbouring Pakistan, a WFP official said.

29 April

All Afghan refugees including those having legal resident cards and illegal should leave Iran by October eleven, instructed Interior Ministry's Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigration Affairs.



Algenicy Co-ordinating Body for Afgham Relief



News Summary - May 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

6 May

A consignment of over 400 tones of food assistance from the Canadian government was handed over to WFP for poor and disposed Afghans in the war- torn and drought-affected country.

6 May

UNHCR has suspended repatriation of refugees to southern Afghanistan because of the drought hitting the region, the UN sources said

7 may

A WHO official said it would be able to immunize more Afghan children this year against polio because of a cease-fire agreement between the ruling Tailban and the opposition northern alliance.

8 May

Taliban authorities sought international help to control the fire raging in the Peshdara forests in the eastern Afghan province of Kunar.

10 May

At least 25 people most of them children, have died of dehydration and hunger in drought-stricken southern Afghanistan, a private news service reported.

11 May

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said that the imposition of economic sanctions and other pressure tactics could not settle the issue of Osama bin Laden.

11 May

The entire population of the Registan desert in southern Afghanistan has fled as a drought, described as the worst in 30 years, hit the war-ravaged country. A UN report said the worst effected areas are Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan and Nimroz provinces.

13 May

UNOCHA has started helping the drought-stricken people of Afghanistan but no promise has been received from the international community for supply of further aid

14 May

An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale joited the Afghan capital and surrounding provinces but there were no reports of casualties, residents and officials said. Tremors lasting several seconds were felt, residents said.

15 May

Libya will soon send a delegation to Afghanistan to assess the economic problems of the war-ravaged country.

16 May

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia needs international help to eradicate poppy cultivation, the Chief of the High Commission for the Drug Control said.

16 May

UNHCR has said it was being flooded by requests from Afghan refugees to be allowed to remain in Iran. Thousands of refugees were afraid of return to Afghanistan under a repatriation program, VoA reported.

17 May

The Afghan government offered its full co-operation to Pakistan in eliminating smuggling through the common border or by the abuse of transit facility currently available to Afghanistan.

17 May

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed on a new Afghan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA) by eliminating 30 items from the import list. The talks covered bilateral trade and commercial matters as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

17 May

Deputy Director of UNHCR, Regional Bureau, Ms. Moureen Connelly is visiting Pakistan to familiarize herself with the conditions of Afghan women refugees. The main objective of Ms. Connelly's mission is to work on the issue of gender equity.

18 May

International donors to Afghanistan warned the warring factions that aid could dry up if heavy fighting breaks out between them, the UN office announced.

19 May

Pakistan ordered immediate closure of 32 international and relief agencies on reasons of inactivity and non-compliance with the government regulations, an official said.

20 May

ECO has called for UN humanitarian aid for the droughthit Afghan people, said a press release.

20 May

The State Department announced USAID that the US government's office of FDA is donating \$500,000 for emergency drought relief for the people of Afghanistan in response to the interim US appeal.

23 May

A new round of fighting erupted in northern Afghanistan as opposition forces launched a counter-attack against the Taliban troops in the northern Salang area, a report said.

23 May

The Afghan Deputy Commerce Minister, Maulavi Faiz Mohd Faizan, denied Pakistan press reports that Taliban agreed to the change brought about by Pakistan in the Afghan Transit Trade.

24 May

The Afghan government renewed its appeal for international aid to help the drought-stricken people in different parts of the war-shattered country. The report also said that around 80% of livestock have died, gardens are withered and destroyed and several people have lost their life.

25 May

Badghis province of Afghanistan is badly affected by the drought. The price of water is much more than the other items of daily use. As a result the affected people are leaving the areas for Turkmenistan.

28 May

A top official of the De Afghanistan Bank- the country's central bank - blamed the growing demand for the American dollar and Russian rouble for the falling value of the Afghani currency.

30 May

The ruling Taliban in Afghanistan said that they are trying their best to solve the problems of hundreds of Afghan refugees returning home from Pakistan and Iran every month.

30 Mav

Responding to the plight of the people hit by the most severe drought in Afghanistan and Pakistan, US Ambassador in Pakistan, presented checks totalling US dollars 70,000 to Church World Service and Mercy Corps International to assist their humanitarian assistance programs.

31 May

Maulavi Wakil Ahmad Mutawakel, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan said that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is fully respecting human rights in the areas under its control.

31 May

In response to UN appeals, the UK announced a grant of two million Sterling Pound for the drought affected countries of the South-Asian region.

Military Developments

23 May

A new round of fighting erupted in northern Afghanistan as opposition forces launched a counterattack against the Taliban troops in the northern Salang area, a report said.

24 May

The Taliban seized a key area from the Northern Alliance after two days of heavy fighting, an Afghan news service said.

25 May

Afghanistan's Taliban have made advances against opposition fighters about 80 Km north of Kabul, reported VoA.

29 May

The Taliban launched a fresh offensive against the Northern Alliance with the active support of the Pakistan Army, Radio Moscow alleged.

Political Developments

5 May

The Taliban have accused the Tajik government of sending Uzbek opposition groups to Afghanistan.

The ruling Taliban in Afghanistan have renewed the talks offer to the United States on all controversial issues.

6 May

Afghanistan's Taliban said that under the Islamic injunctions, they are duty-bound to assist the Muslims as scorched earth policy has been adopted against the Muslims world.

6 May

Former Afghan Defence Minister and one of the leaders of the Northern Alliance, Ahmad Shah Masood, received a serious setback when Commander Abdullah Jan Nauman, one of his close aides, defected along with 2500 of his fighters to Taliban.

7 May

The National Islamic Front of Afghanistan and Taliban have agreed to resume talks on peace formula.

7 May

While demanding the establishment of Grand Assembly and convening its meeting on emergency basis, the moderate NIFA has claimed that this was the only way for resolving the long awaited Afghan problem.

9 May

Afghanistan's warring fractions resumed a new round of indirect peace talks in Saudi Arabia sponsored by OIC, the OIC said.

9 May

A coalition of Afghan opposition groups has agreed in principle to participate in direct talks with the ruling Taliban militia, on condition that the two sides agree to abandon the military option, a member of the coalition said.

9 May

Consul General of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Maulavi Najibullah, called on the Governor NWFP, General M.Shafiq, at the Governor's House, Peshawar to discuss matters of mutual interest.

10 May

A coalition of Afghan opposition groups and the ruling Taliban agreed to an exchange of prisoners during talks held under the auspices of OIC, an OIC source said.

10 May

An Afghan spiritual leader Ahmad Amin Mujaddedi has launched a new peace mission to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan by establishing contact with Taliban leader, Mulla Mohammed Omar, and opposition military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood.

11 May

Afghanistan's warring factions have agreed to meet again in June after talks in Saudi Arabia that ended with an accord to exchange prisoners, OIC said.

11 May

Secretary General of OIC Ibrahim Bakr has said that all factions in Afghanistan trust OIC and the conference can effectively mediate between them.

12 May

The UN special envoy on women rights in Afghanistan, Radika Kumaraswami, has said that the Taliban government should not be recognized unless it gives Afghan women their basic rights.

12 May

OIC, Pakistan and Iran will assist ICRC in exchange of prisoners in Afghanistan.

17 May

The UN special envoy on Afghanistan Francesc Vendrell said that foreign interference is still continuing in Afghanistan making the problem difficult and complicated but still hoped solution to the conflict might possibly be found.

17 May

Interior Minister Gen. Moinuddin Haider and his Afghan counterpart Mulla Abdull Razaq Akhund resolved to cooperate closely with each other in various fields.

17 May

Chief Executive Gen. Parvez Musharaf said that the Northern Alliance and the Afghan government should first accept a cease-fire and then embark on some formula towards the resolution of the Afghan problem.

17 May

To end the Afghan crisis former king Mohd Zahir Shah has established contacts with the USA to help resolve the issue.

18 May

More misery is ahead for the Afghan nation as the UN is considering imposing more tough sanctions on Afghanistan due to the Taliban's stand on Osama bin Laden. We expect more UN sanctions in the coming days on trade and export of fuel from three neighbouring countries this time, confided a top Taliban official to The News from Kabul.

19 May

The UN said it was weighing "concrete assistance" to a peace initiative for Afghanistan began by the fractured, war-torn country's former king, Mohd.Zahir Shah.

Pakistan has informed the Afghanistan government that no Afghan national would be allowed to enter into Pakistan unless he carries 'some document" in lieu of passport.

21 May

This year it is a much calmer start to the summer as compared with what had been witnessed in the preceding years. This appears to be a positive indicator in the backdrop of the recent meeting between Taliban and the North Alliance. Pakistan also participated in the meeting through a senior official of the Ministry of FO.

22 May

Taliban Foreign Minister, Maulavi Wakil Motawikil said that there were certain political motives behind the UN sanctions and the demand that the Taliban regime handed over Osama bin Laden, the Saudi dissident Washington alleges was responsible for the bombing of its embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998.

23 May

RAWA said the Jeddah peace conference was a ploy of the Taliban and their opponents to buy time and make preparations for a new round of bloody fighting, said press release.

23 May

Taliban supreme leader Mulla Mohd Omar renewed talks offer to the US on the issue of Osama bin Laden, saying Taliban want a negotiated settlement.

23 May

About 12000 Afghan refugees in Iran have filed claims with their host country government to regularize their presence, as they fear to return home.

24 May

The leading Afghanistan figures visiting USA, expressed satisfaction over the response given by the American authorities in favour of former King Mohd Zahir Shah efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Afghan conflict.

24 May

The Taliban government warned that the neighbouring countries providing air-strike facilities to Russia will be equally responsible for the aggression against the people of the Islamic Emirate.

24 May

A delegation representing Zahir Shah, the former King of Afghanistan, held series of meetings at the US State Department, the National Security Council, and the US Congress to discuss the present situation in the conflict-torn country.

25 May

A well-known Afghan journalist, Yaqoot Shinwari expressed serious concern over the recent Russian threats to Afghanistan.

25 May

The Taliban have strongly condemned Russian threat of strikes against Afghanistan and warned Moscow of dire consequences if it ever commits such a blunder.

26 May

Chief Executive General Parvez Musharaf said that if Russia attacked Afghanistan, it would have very serious repercussions and would further complicate the situation.

27 May

A delegation of the former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah led by Hidayat Amin Arsalah, held talks with UN officials in New York. Arsalah said they asked the UN to extend support for convening Loya Jirga.

27 May

The Taliban foreign minister has drawn the attention of international organizations to the threats of missile strikes against his country by Russia, officials said.

27 May

Taliban supreme leader, Mulla Mohd Omar denied presence of terrorist training camps in Afghanistan.

27 May

Russia and US called on Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia to hand over Osama bin Laden and dismantle "terrorist" training camps.

28 May

US under security Thomas Pickering said it was inconceivable that Pakistan could not persuade the Taliban to extradite Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden to bring him to justice.

30 May

The Taliban-run newspaper said 16 Russian generals went to opposition-controlled territory promising ousted defense minister Ahmad Shah Masud strategic advise and weapons.

30 May

Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmad Mutawakel invited foreign observers to see for themselves whether there are any military training camps for Chechens in Afghanistan.

30 May

US Ambassador to Pakistan rejected the criticism that UN sanctions on Afghanistan have led to starvation of people, saying they are aimed at a particular segment of Afghan governing units.

In the wake of great achievements made by two different delegations during their visits to USA, the moderate Afghans are now confident that Mohd Zahir Shah would be successful to find a negotiated solution to the Afghan conflict.

31 May

The US under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering discussed with the Taliban representatives the implementation of the UN resolution on handing over of bin Laden.

Security Matters

5 May

One Afghan national in the wee hour was killed as a result of cross firing between two rival Afghan tribes. Soon after the incident police raided the site and arrested two persons from the firing site.

6 May

Gravely concerned by reports that the rival groups in Afghanistan are preparing for a fresh offensive, the Security Council has warned them not to pursue a military solution to the conflict as it would only aggravate the country's humanitarian situation.

7 May

Haji Saad Malook, an Afghan national from Nangarhar province sustained minor injuries when some unknown persons opened firing against his vehicle on Charsadda Road.

7 May

Wais Khan, an Afghan national was arrested by Taliban authorities in Laghman when he demanded the return of his land confiscated Taliban when they captured the region in 1996.

8 May

At least six people were killed as a result of Taliban's heavy artillery shelling on the opposition bunkers in eastern Afghan province of Kunar, reported Radio Tehran.

8 May

Authorities have arrested a German national at Pak-Afghan border while trying to cross into Afghanistan, official sources said.

8 May

Two Arabs arrested here for alleged espionage have admitted they were spying for the US and Israel, Afghanistan's Taliban militia said.

10 May

Six people including three women were critically wounded when personnel of the law-enforcing agency allegedly opened fire on a convoy of Afghan refugees at Sra Rogha.

11 May

Nine Afghans were killed and five others wounded while trying to enter Turkey illegally from the Turkish-Iranian border reported the Xinhua News Agency.

13 May

Afghan opposition northern alliance accused Taliban of massacring 90 young men in the northern Samangan province.

15 May

160 Afghan nationals, including three females, are lodged at prisons of the NWFP to face convictions and trials under different laws, with the infamous Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR) being on top of the list, informed sources said.

15 May

The Afghan opposition accused the ruling Taliban of massacring 198 prisoners after the warring factions reached an agreement on a prisoner swap in Saudi Arabia.

15 May

Taliban forces have killed 12 alleged bandits in an attack on their hideout in Afghanistan's western Farah province near the Iranian border, a private news service reported.

18 May

Five persons of an Afghan family were killed including two brothers, their mother, wife and son of a brother.

19 May

Sheltered by his Taliban hosts and constantly on the move, Osama bin Laden reportedly spends most of his time overseeing three terrorist camps in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province.

19 May

Pakistan has informed the Afghanistan government that no Afghan national would be allowed to enter into Pakistan unless he carries 'some document" in lieu of passport.

21 May

Afghan opposition leader, Ismail Khan, who escaped from a Taliban jail in Kandahar, said he fled into Iran alone by disguising himself as a member of the Islamic militia, according to the account published.

Four civilians were killed and two wounded as jet fighters of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban attacked a key opposition stronghold in the northeastern province of Takhar, opposition officials said.

24 May

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban condemned a warning from Russia of possible airstrikes against suspected Islamic training camps in Afghanistan. The spokesman shrugged off the warning and vowed that the Islamic militia would continue to extend 'moral backing' for the Chechen rebels.

25 May

Russia has drawn up plans for air-strikes against suspected terrorist bases in Afghanistan, senior defense sources said. Russia would attack jointly with the Central Asian states of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Khazakhstan.

26 May

The Kazakh immigration authorities detained 16 Pakistani and Afghan nationals at Almaty airport who were on way to join Chechen rebels, reported Itartass news agency quoting Kazakh security agency KNB.

26 May

ANF arrested an influential Afghan elder, Hakim Khan, along with his old father and 12-year old son when heroin, hashish. arms and foreign cloth were recovered from his house.

26 May

The United Nations has deplored the Taliban bombardment of Talooqan on the night of 20 May in the northeastern Afghan province of Takhar. The bombing, it said, devastated the family of Bashir Ahmad, a field worker of the UN.

27 May

A powerful blast at a Taliban military base rocked Kabul, residents and soldiers said. The blast occurred at the Taliban military in the northern Khair Khana area after sunrise, Taliban soldiers guarding the base said.

28 May

Two Arabs, an Iraqi and a Palestinian, have been jailed for three years in Pakistan for illegal entry and trying to cross the border into Afghanistan, official sources said.



5 May

The local Taliban in Miranshah area of North Waziristan Agency burnt a few days back cassettes containing music, tape records and televisions in an attempts to root out social evils.

8 May

As many as 1000 Afghan refugees have voluntarily returned to Afghanistan from Hurmazgan province of Iran.

10 May

At least 25 people most of them children, have died of dehydration and hunger in drought-stricken southern Afghanistan, a private news service reported

24 May

The Taliban authorities in Khost province of Afghanistan foiled an attempt by a desperate father to sell his daughter because of poverty. They forced the person to accept the marriage of his daughter with the nominated person without receiving any money.

25 May

The special four-member committee of OIC on Afghanistan, which met in Islamabad, urged the ICRC to expedite collection of prisoners' lists.

25 May

Police in Dera Ismail Khan foiled attempts to smuggle wheat to tribal areas for its onward transportation to Afghanistan.

26 May

Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan asked the international community to declare Russia as a terrorist state for carrying terrorist activities in Afg' and Chechnya.

27 May

A retired Pakistani general who launched an Afghan peace campaign said it would hopefully bring an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

27 May

The photographic collection of Luke Powell, an American photographer, during his travels of Afghanistan in the 1970s was put on display at Alliance Francaise. The collection contained 32 images of the prewar Afghanistan.

21 January

Turkey is to send 110 MT of wheat for the people of Afghanistan. A statement issued by the Turkish Embassy in Islamabad said that the wheat would be sent to Kunduz and Takhar provinces of Afghanistan-by the Turkish Embassy in Tajikistan.

21 January

The UN moved food and blankets to Dare-Suf in Samangan Province using 1,500 donkeys as the area is highly inaccessible in winter and the presence of landmines on the road made it impossible to use trucks to carry supplies to the area. Throughout much of 1999 fighting in Dare-Suf was tense and forced 5000 families to flee the area, according to Michael Semple, acting UN Co-ordinator for Humanitarian Relief to the Hazarajat region of Afghanistan.

21 January

Afghanistan and Tajikistan signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of Water and Power. agreement was signed by the head of the Water and Power Corporation of Tajikistan, Bahram Sarajev and the Afghan Ambassador in Dushanbe, Ibrahim Hakmat.

25 January

The government of Denmark has contributed US\$ 347,500 to the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan.

27 January

About 107 MT of humanitarian aid has been sent by Iran for refugees in northern Afghanistan, a representative of Iran's Red Crescent Society reported.

The UN food agency FAO warned against the spread of serious veterinary diseases in Afghanistan and regional countries including Pakistan if the international community failed to provide additional funds for FAO's livestock Programme in Afghanistan.

30 January

The Opposition has appealed to the UN to provide aid to thousands of people who left their homes after the Taliban attacked areas in Northern Afghanistan.

Military Developments

7 January

aliban jet fighters carried out several bombing raids over Opposition areas north of Kabul. The Taliban jets dropped bombs in three sorties over Jabul Saraj (7

kilometres north of Kabul), near Opposition held areas north of Kabul, but no causalities have been reported.

11 January

One of Ahmad Shah Masood's famous commander's Agha Shirin Salangi, along with 50 companions have joined the Taliban in Ghorband district of Parwan Province.

22 January

Fighting has broken out in Sang-Charak in Jazjan Province between the Taliban and Opposition. At least 13 soldiers from both sides have been killed.

23 January

The Taliban launched a series of arial attacks in Sang-Charak district of Sare-Pul Province killing seven and injuring eighteen. The Taliban have captured and burnt four villages and committed crimes against civilians, according to an Opposition spokesperson.

The Darra Gosfandee pass and Sare-Pul area of Jawzjan Province fell to the Taliban after heavy fighting over the past several days. 20 soldiers dead and dozens injured on both sides.

29 January

The Opposition conceded that it had lost ground in the northern Province of Sare-Pul and accused the Taliban of using fighters form Pakistan in the attack.

Political Developments

1 January

he five hijackers and three pro-Kashmire Muslim militants who were released from jail in India in exchange for the some 155 passengers on board the Indian Airlines Plane were being driven to an unknown destination by the Taliban. Earlier the Taliban had give the hijackers 10 hours to leave Afghanistan. whereabouts of hijackers remains unknown.

3 January

The Taliban are not bound to disclose the whereabouts of the hijackers of the Indian airline under an agreement reached between the Taliban negotiators and hijackers in Kandahar.

4 January

The Taliban want India to consider renewing diplomatic ties with Kabul, citing the close co-operation extended



Algency Co-ordinating Body for Alfgham Relief



News Summary – June 2000



Ala

Aid and Economic Developments

1 June

A severe drought, which has thus far mainly hit southern Afghanistan, is gripping more areas of the wartorn country, the UN said. A UN weekly report said Badghis and Faryab provinces in the northwest and Ghor in central Afghanistan are seriously affected, forcing livestock owners to migrate.

3 June

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said it is increasingly concerned about the devastating drought that has hit Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to rely on emergency food aid.

4 June

Afghanistan's warring factions will stop fighting for three days so that the UN can carry out a polio vaccination campaign, a senior Afghan official said. The UN said it hopes to immunize 4.5 million children against polio during the break in fighting.

5 June

The Taliban have pledged to provide every possible facility to returning Afghan refugees including land.

5 June

A university in the US has agreed to assist the Kabul University in the Afghanistan capital, announced Radio Shariat.

6 June

A Taliban delegation headed by the Minister for Higher Education has held talks and signed accords with several US universities. The delegation on a visit held talks on matters pertaining to the provision of laboratory equipment and computers for different departments in Afghanistan reported the BBC.

7 June

The UN warned that the drought in Afghanistan is affecting almost half the countries 20 million population.

7 June

About 26,000 Afghan refugees in Iran have returned to Afghanistan since an agreement between Tehran and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) took effect, the Interior Ministry said.

8 June

The UN appealed for 67 million dollars in aid for victims of the worst drought to hit Afghanistan in 29 years. Forty-eight million dollars is needed for food security, the acting UN coordinator for Afghanistan, Ahmad Farah, said in a statement issued in Islamabad.

8 June

Afghanistan's Taliban have announced incentives for traders including the abolition of tax on edibles to overcome food shortage caused by the unprecedented drought. The governor of western Afghan province of Herat, Maulawi Khairullah told the BBC in an interview that fortunately borders are open and nearly 100 lorries are bringing in wheat via Torghundi and Islam Qila to the province daily.

10 June

Hunger threatens millions of Afghan in the wake of the drought that has destroyed almost all the rain-fed crops in Afghanistan, said a report of the US food agencies.

11 June

The UN has said that shortage of twenty-three lakh (2.3m) tons of wheat has been recorded in drought- hit Afghanistan, VOA reports.

11 June

Head of the World Food Programme in Kandahar, Fayyaz Shah has said that WFP has conducted a vulnerability analysis survey in Afghanistan to ascertain the affects of drought.

The Chief of Afghanistan section of the World Food Programme, Michael Sackett has said that the situation in Afghanistan is very dangerous and the WFP would seek more food aid for drought-hit Afghanistan.

13 June

The Afghan refugee situation remains grim but the international community is increasingly indifferent with UNHCR allocation now only 2 per cent of its global budget.

14 June

The pace of Afghan refugee repatriation has slowed down due to reduction in international aid from the donor agencies during the last seven years. Official sources said as many 2,162,708 Afghan refugees were repatriated from Pakistan during the last 10 years.

14 June

The NWFP government, in present circumstances, has no plan to levy GST or any other tax on the Afghan traders.

15 June

WFP has dispatched 130 tons of foodstuffs to the drought-affected areas in northern Afghanistan.

16 June

US Ambassador to Pakistan William B. Milam received a shipment of 40,000 tons of wheat donated by the US to help the Afghan drought victims.

18 June

The UN fears that the positive move in year 2000 in terms of reduced land under poppy cultivation may be reversed if the drought-stricken population was not provided assistance in terms of food and towards developing alternative cropping mechanisms.

18 June

Former Afghan king Mohammad Zahir Shah while expressing his concern over continuous drought in his motherland has urged the international community to fulfil its responsibilities in this connection.

19 June

The Taliban have launched a formal appeal to international relief agencies and Afghans living abroad to provide aid for the drought stricken people of Afghanistan.

20 June

Russia has sent a planeload of emergency relief supplies to Afghanistan and Tajikistan, Itar-Tass news agency reported.

21 June

The Council of Understanding and National Unity of Afghanistan (CUNUA) appreciated the 40,000 tons of wheat provided by US.

22 June

Millions of Afghans have little or no access to food and the situation is expected to worsen in the coming months without additional food aid. This was stated at a joint report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP).

22 June

The internal conflict and human rights situation in Afghanistan are causing problems in the process of repatriation of Afghan refugees, as no western donor country is ready to provide the required funds to accelerate the process.

23 June

An "acute hemorrhage fever syndrome" has broken out in an isolated village in western Afghanistan and UN experts said they feared it could spread to the nearby city of Herat.

23 June

The UNHCR assisted more than 245 families' repatriate from Pakistan to Afghanistan.

23 June

The Afghan Women's Council appealed to the UN to set up separate women's office in Pakistan to have a close view of the living conditions of Afghan refugee women.

24 June

The UN refugee agency pleaded for more aid to droughtstricken Afghanistan, and said that without it Afghans may stream into Pakistan and Iran.

25 June

USAID will donate up to six million dollars to relieve suffering of the Afghan people as well as certain areas of India and Pakistan from persisting drought conditions. Up to 4 million dollars in emergency drought relief will be made available through international and non-governmental organizations.

26 June

Known Frontier ophthalmologist Dr.Hafiz Ziaul Islam has been assigned to carry out a survey on blindness in Afghanistan by the World Health Organization (WHO).

27 June

The Public Affairs Programme of the US, Consulate organised a Dari-Pashtu Telephone Conference on "Afghan Peace Initiatives" in Peshawar.

The Taliban authorities promised to ban opium cultivation if the world provided them resources to fight poverty in war-torn Afghanistan.

27 June

A relentless drought in neighbouring Afghanistan threatens to send as many as 2 million thirsty people in search of water, possibly to Pakistan, itself a victim of a protracted dry spell, the UN warned.

27 June

The government of the People's Republic of China has donated relief goods worth Rs 10.2 million for the Afghan refugees living in NWFP.

28 June

Afghan University has been continuing its operation in Peshawar despite financial crunch and other problems. At a time when the rulers in Afghanistan are allegedly resisting introduction of modern sciences in educational institutions, a number of Peshawar-based Afghan intellectuals have over-come this problem and obtained permission to run the Afghan University in Pakistan.

28 June

Taliban supreme leader Mulla Muhammad Omar has sought foreign assistance for the Afghan poppy growers, enabling them to substitute their poppy crop.

28 June

The UN has praised the Taliban government in Afghanistan for destroying a huge amount of Opium, reports "Voice of America."

29 June

An innovative food-against-opium proposal involving Afghanistan, Iran and the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) is under consideration as one of the possible solutions to check trafficking of the Afghan opium.

30 June

The USA has donated 40,000 metric tons of wheat and 4 million US dollars for the drought affected areas of Afghanistan.

30 June

Taliban delegation, headed by chairman of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce, Maulavi Abdul Haleem Haleemi, is visiting Turkmenistan for talks on import of wheat to Afghanistan.

30 June

The UN High Commission for Refugees said a convoy of Afghan refugees left for their homeland under the UNHCR repatriation program.



1 June

Amidst reports of violations of airspace by Uzbek jet fighters, thousands of armed Afghans have taken positions in Hairatan bordering Uzbekistan in the wake of possible Russian air-strike from Uzbekistan.

8 June

Ten Taliban commanders have joined the opposition northern alliance in Ghor province.

11 June

Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Maulawi Sayed Mohammed Haqqani has said that Russian army generals are assisting Northern Alliance commander Ahmad Shah Masud in the war planning.

15 June

The Taliban have launched a fresh offensive against the opposition Northern Alliance in the northern part of the Salang Pass, reports Radio Tehran. The Taliban attacked the opposition commander, Bashir Salangi's bases and captured some ground as well.

15 June

Opposition forces captured a provincial capital in central Afghanistan from the Taliban, a Pakistan-based Afghan news service reported. The opposition forces entered the Ghor province capital Chaghchran.

19 June

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban responding to increasing international pressure, have closed down three military training camps and have placed new restrictions on Arabs associated with the dissident Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, Afghan and Pakistani officials said.

23 June

Russia is re-aligning its defence units in Tajikistan from domestic duties to a military posture that is increasingly anti-Afghanistan, heightening fears in the region of an impending military confrontation in the region.

26 June

Opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masud believes that the ruling Taliban militia is planning a new offensive in northern Afghanistan and has conveyed his fears to the UN, his spokesman said.

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia will unleash major attack northern provinces of Parwan and Kapisa within days, a senior spokesman for the opposition forces said.



1 June

Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf urged Moscow to observe restraint vis-a-vis carrying out all strikes against Afghanistan as it will throw the region into danger.

1 June

A German parliamentary delegation stated that the war-ravaged and drought-hit people of Afghanistan badly need humanitarian aid from the community, as human conditions there are pathetic. Ms. Claudia stated the Taliban have to change their attitude to empower their people.

1 June

Former Afghan President and chief of the Afghan National Liberation Front Prof. Sibghat Ullah Mujaddadi, while expressing his concern over recent Russian threat to Afghanistan, has urged Russia not to attack Afghanistan as all the Afghans are united to defend their motherland.

2 June

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said the USA has produced fresh evidence about Osama bin Laden's alleged involvement of what the Americans call terrorist activities.

2 June

Afghanistan ruling Taliban formally lodge a protest with Uzbekistan over air space violation by Uzbek planes.

2 June

The US State Department has clarified that Taliban did not make any offer to turn over Osama bin Laden if the US recognised their government in Afghanistan.

3 June

Former Afghan prime minister and chief Of Hezbe-Islami Afghanistan Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has termed Russian threats as serious, saying the West might have encouraged Moscow to sound such threats.

3 June

Amidst Uzbekistan's rejection of Taliban's allegation that its aircraft have violated Afghan airspace, the Taliban

have put its air force on alert. In a statement, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said the Afghan claim was an attempt to misguide the international community.

3 June

The Shiite Harkat-e- Islami party of Afghanistan condemned Russia's threat to launch air-strikes against Afghanistan and said the Afghans were ready to fight any intruder.

3 June

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam leader Maulana Fazlur Rahman has said the US would never succeed in its endeavors to arrest Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden.

3 June

Chief of the Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has said that Afghans will defend every inch of their homeland united in case of Russian aggression.

5 June

Russia and the US, which spent billions fighting for control of Afghanistan during the Cold War, have suddenly found common ground in urging its strict Islamic government to stop spreading religious extremism and violence in South and Central Asia, according to the Washington Post.

5 June

The Former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah is sending his delegations to Afghanistan to hold talks with the Taliban and opposition Northern Alliance to seek their support for the proposed Loya Jirga.

6 June

The former head of National Unity and Consensus Shoora of Afghanistan, Syed Ishaq Gilani while condemning the killing of Afghan personalities in Pakistan has held the Taliban responsible.

6 June

Advocating a centralised and acceptable government in the war-ravaged Afghanistan, chief of the Afghan Community for Peace and National Security Dr. Amanullah Rasool, an Afghan scholar, said that it could pave the way for ending the foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

6 June

Taliban have assured Pakistan that they will close down training camps in Afghanistan for imparting training to Pakistanis, Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said.

8 June

The leading defendant in a terrorism trial told the court he had no links to Osama bin Laden and that police had obtained his confession through torture.

Two parallel efforts for bringing peace in Afghanistan are currently under way, as the chances of fresh fighting between the Northern Alliance and Taliban appear strong.

9 June

Members of the United Nations Security Council have begun exploratory and informal talks about the possibility of introducing tougher sanctions against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

9 June

The Afghan Council for Understanding and National Unity known as Shura-i-Tafahum, while denouncing the Russian recent threat to Afghanistan, said it is dangerous to the global peace, therefore, world community must take its notice.

10 June

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban condemned an invitation to the ousted Rabbani government in the to ECO Summit meeting in Tehran and said the "Afghan Islamic Emirate" would not be bound to accept any decision of the grouping.

10 June

Pakistan fully supports Iran's initiative to solve the Afghanistan crisis by encouraging the opposition groups to negotiate, Foreign Minister Abdul Satar said.

10 June

Two members of the UN Security Council, Russia and the USA have joined hands to increase pressure on the Taliban movement in Afghanistan.

11 June

The Organization of Islamic Summit (OIC) contact group's efforts to engage the Taliban and the Northern Alliance in peace talks have stumbled over the hurdle of prisoner-of-war exchange, senior Afghan diplomats said.

11 June

Former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani, overthrown by the Taliban in 1996, said that Afghanistan has become a haven for terrorists and drug traffickers.

11 June

Ousted Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani regretted that continuation of foreign interference in Afghanistan under the guise of the Taliban.

11 June

Pakistan and Iran have expressed concern over increase in drug production and terrorism in Afghanistan and its harmful impact on the region.

11 June

Amidst reports of Indo-Russian collusion to support Ahmed Shah Masud for their strategic interest and establish their foothold in the troubled region, Russia has chalked out a new strategic to contain the Taliban's onslaught, disclosed highly placed diplomatic sources.

12 June

Afghanistan's Taliban and opposition northern alliance have exchanged Prisoners of war in northern Afghan province of Samangan, reports Radio Tehran.

12 June

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami called in opposing Afghani factions to cooperate in setting up in Kabul and rejected any 'military solution' to the conflict.

12 June

The Taliban have appealed to the UN Security Council not to impose more sanctions against Afghanistan. The UN Security Council is considering more tough sanctions against the Taliban for supporting Islamic extremists.

12 June

Afghanistan ruling Taliban said former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah has no role to play in Afghan politics.

12 June

Iran and Uzbekistan called for peaceful settlement of the long-standing Afghan conflict, saying that solution to the crisis is must for development in the region.

13 June

Ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has asked Pakistan's military ruler to convince the ruling Taliban militia to negotiate an end to the civil war, opposition officials said.

14 June

Pakistan based Afghan refugees and Afghan groups held a weeklong protest demonstration and meeting to strongly condemn the recent Russian threats to Afghanistan.

15 June

Commander Masood showed many extremists Pakistani and Chinese prisoners who said Osama bin Laden was their hero and they were happy to fight against Masood because they considered him as a hurdle in the way of their Islamic cause, Deputy Chief of European Parliament General Morian said.

15 June

Large-scale movement of spies has been reported from inside Afghanistan heralding hectic political activity in the troubled country in near future. These developments have especially acquired greater significance because of the reports of collusion between US and Russia for destabilising Taliban government and apprehending Osama.

15 June

US Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering has said that the US is much concerned and worried over the terrorism issue in the South Asia and if these concerns are not addressed, Washington would be compelled to consider other sanctions although it does not desire so.

16 June

Haji Saad Malook Shinwari, a leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front while expressing his concern over Russian threat to Afghanistan, has held Taliban responsible for it.

16 June

Taliban have condemned a reported move by the US to impose more economic curbs on Afghanistan, asking Washington to stop using pressure tactics.

18 June

France has said it is not supporting any particular side in the Afghan war and just wants the settlement of the Afghanistan conflict.

18 June

Taliban rejected the allegations leveled against them by the Amnesty International in its annual report, which criticized the ruling hard line student militia for violation of human rights.

19 June

Former Afghan monarch Mohammad Zahir Shah has sought support of the world community for his plan to restore peace in Afghanistan.

19 June

Uzbek President Islam Karimov has said that the Afghan conflict has assumed an alarming proportion with Afghanistan turning into a hub of international terrorism and thereby posing a threat not only to Central Asia but other regions as well.

20 June

The opposing forces in Afghanistan's civil war have agreed to exchange teams to inspect each other's jails in preparation for a swap of prisoners, officials said.

20 June

Displaying consensus over the formation of Loya Jirga for resolving the Afghan crisis, participants at a seminar here, stated that instead of being foreign sponsored, the Jirga should be indigenous, and in line with Afghan traditions.

20 June

Haji Yaqoot Khan Shinwari, an Afghan writer while commenting on the recent summit meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held at Tehran said that it was proved that both Taiban and their rivals are responsible for destruction of Afghanistan.

20 June

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has expressed his pleasure over Iran's initiative for the settlement of the Afghan conflict and invitation to the Afghan factions for talks, reports Radio Tehran.

21 June

Afghanistan's warring factions plotted the first step toward a large-scale prisoner exchange, an opposition spokesman said.

21 June

Chief of Hezb-e-Wahdat Afghanistan Karim Khalili has reached Panjshir valley from Iran to seek reconciliation with his estranged party leaders, Ustad Mohaqqiq and Ustad Irfani. Hezb-e-Wahdat sources said Khalili has also sought the intervention of deposed Afghan president Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani to mediate between him and Mohaqqiq and Irfani.

22 June

Canada has called upon Afghanistan's neighboring states to stop supplying arms to the warring factions of Afghanistan and help the UN resolve the decade -old issue amicably.

23 June

Former Afghan army officers and Mujahideen commanders have pledged to raise a national force to pull the country out of internal conflict. Addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club, Lieutenant General Marjan said the absence of an organized national army was the main factor behind the present crisis in Afghanistan.

23 June

The increasing foreign intervention in Afghanistan has developed internal rifts among Afghans and it is considered the main hurdle in the way of negotiated solution to the conflict.

24 June

The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has urged the Taliban not to hand over Osama bin Laden to the US or any other country. The demand was made by the party's provincial secretary general, Sirajul Haq, in a meeting with the acting Governor of the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, Maulavi Sadr-e-Azam, during his three-day visit to Afghanistan, reported Radio Tehran.

The deportation of a renowned Afghan scholar and academician Prof. Dr.Rahim Elham by the government of Pakistan is not only a gross violation of international conventions but is also a negation of the declared policy of the government to deal with refugees on humanitarian and legal basis says a press release issues by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

24 June

The Taliban government said that it is ready to hold talks with opposition Northern Alliance to end decades long civil war in the beleaguered Afghanistan. This offer for talks with Northern Alliance came during a meeting of the Canadian High Commissioner, Ferry Dekerckhove with the Afghan Charge d' Affairs, Qazi Habibullah Fauzi here.

24 June

Canada has called for an end to foreign interference and negotiated settlement of the Afghan conflict.

25 June

Afghan scholar Prof.Abdur Rahim Ilham was deported as he was involved in anti-Pakistan activities, said a senior government official.

25 June

Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan (Hekmatyar) has opposed holding of Loya Jirga saying it would be a sort of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

26 June

The anti-Taliban northern alliance has demanded representation in the 21st OIC Foreign Ministers Conference in Kuala Lumpur, reports Radio Tehran.

27 June

Afghanistan's Taliban have said that Professor Rahim Elham deported by Pakistan on June 21 would face no problem in Afghanistan. Pakistan authorities said that Professor Elham used to issue anti-Pakistan statements and accused Islamabad of interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

27 June

Deposed Afghan president Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani has said any air strike by Russia against the alleged terrorist training camps in Afghanistan would serve no purpose, but to provoke the Afghans.

28 June

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazai said that General Pervez Musharraf's recent Tehran visit had contributed to improvement of relations between Pakistan and Iran and set the tone for more cooperation between the two countries particularly on Afghanistan.

28 June

The Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) meeting is likely to adopt resolution on the Kashmir, Afghanistan and Palestine issues, officials said.

28 June

The Special Envoy of UN Secretary General on Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell says, "Loya Jirga is a traditional Afghan institute that can serve the Afghans".

28 June

Fifty Taliban under the command of commander Qari Khudadad have joined the opposition Northern Alliance in Pule Khomri area of Baghlan province, reported Radio Tehran.

29 June

Pakistan and the USA have developed consensus on Afghanistan, Minister for Information and Media Development Javed Jabbar said.



1 June

The Afghan government has alleged that Uzbekistan's jet-fighters thrice-violated Afghanistan's airspace.

1 June

Haji Saad Malook, an Afghan national survived an attempt on his life while he was coming back from Bajaur Agency to Peshawar. While he was entering Mohmand Agency, some armed persons opened fire with klashinkov on his motor car.

2 June

Unknown assailants critically injured a leader of Afghan Millat Party (AMP) Mohammed Inam in an attempt on his life.

2 June

The leading Taliban leaders have expressed concern over a news item published in a local Pashto newspaper in which it was reported that the Taliban have prepared a hit list of various Afghan leaders and other people.

5 June

Seven suspects, hailing from different parts of the country, were arrested from the Pak-Afghan border during routine patrol of the law enforcing agencies; authorities said Tochi Scouts personnel were on their routine patrol when they apprehended the seven persons.

5 June

A bomb exploded in a busy district of the Afghan capital, but there were no casualties or damage, witnesses said.

The bomb was planted in a corner of the city's central Zarnigar Park, opposite the Ministry of Communications building.

10 June

Russian border guards shot and killed two men who were trying to cross into Tajikistan from Afghanistan, a spokesman said.

13 June

Four persons were killed in an armed clash involving Pakistani tribesmen and a family of Afghan refugees near Wana in South Waziristan tribal agency.

16 June

Crime, including kidnappings, is on the rise in Khorassan, an Iranian province along the border with Afghanistan and a major crossing-point in the international drug trade, residents say. In the border village of Ali-Abad, four people were kidnapped and released only after their families paid 14,000 dollars to the hostage-takers from Afghanistan, said village resident Reza Gholami.

16 June

The Taliban authorities have closed a big training camp at a time when Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar arrived in Washington to discuss, besides other things, the issue of terrorism in Afghanistan, reported the BBC.

20 June

At least eight Taliban were killed in general uprising staged by the people of southern Afghan province of Helmand, reports Radio Tehran.

25 June

There have been no military activities at Rishkhor training camp near Afghan capital Kabul as foreign guerillas have left it, reports BBC. The villages in the area say that those who have left the center were Arabs and Pakistanis.

26 June

At least two persons were killed when Taliban's jet fighters bombed opposition held Dara-e-Souf district in Samangan province and Kaldaro district in Bulkh province after a few day's lull in fighting, reports Radio Mashad. Besides, aerial strikes, Taliban launched ground offensive as well at the two districts in northern Afghanistan.

26 June

Speakers at a four-day meeting in Germany painted a horrifying picture of today's Afghanistan, saying the affluent classes of the country had settled abroad while the Taliban had adopted an indifferent attitude towards the oppressed Afghan people.

29 June

The Iranian security forces have killed six drug traffickers and wounded four other close to the Afghan border.

30 June

Harakat-e-Islami Afghanistan (Mohseni group) has called for securing religious, political and collective rights of the Shia population in Afghanistan, said a statement.

30 June

The law-enforcing agencies here arrested a director and a teacher of a centre for orphans run by the Afghan Support Committee who were Libyan nationals, from their Hayatabad residences.

Other News

2 June

More than 300 shops were destroyed as fire erupted in a market in the northern Afghan town of Hairatan bordering Uzbekistan, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

4 June

Three thousands poverty-stricken children, including 500 girls, work as kuli (carrier) in Torkham at the Pak-Afghan border.

5 June

A young Afghan drowned in Rawal Dam, while swimming in the jurisdiction of Secretariat Police Station.

6 June

The American Center will host a month-long photographic exhibition titled 'The Afghan Folio.' Lok Virsa Executive Director Uxi Mufti will inaugurate the event.

9 June

Around 500 illegal immigrants staged a mass break out from an Australian detention centre to protest delays in processing their claims for refugee status.

13 June

Afghan shepherds are herding their flocks into Pakistan to escape the severe drought at home.

14 June

Afghanistan ruling Taliban have released an Arab spy due to poor health condition, a Taliban spokesman said in Afghan Southern Town of Kandahar.

At least 16 persons have died in village Shor of Herat Province of Afghanistan due to undiagnosed diseases. WHO and MOPH are investigating the matter in this regard.

16 June

A special UN team arrived in the Western Afghan City of Herat to investigate the outbreak of a mysterious disease, which has claimed 16 lives in the past three weeks, health officials said.

16 June

Each spring, huge areas of southern and eastern of Afghanistan are covered with red opium poppies. Some of it is processed into heroin and morphine in small factories inside Afghanistan, according to the BBC.

19 June

People of Pakistan and Afghanistan are very close with each other in respect of social and cultural relations. They are like one body and two souls. This was stated by Afghan First Secretary/Ambassador Qazi Habibullah at Bhurban on the inauguration of "Afghan Food Festival 2000" which was arranged by PC Bhurban.

20 June

Afghan travelers who recently arrived from Kabul have told the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper that the guesthouse of Osama bin Laden, near the Intercontinental Hotel, has been closed.

21 June

NWFP Minister for trade, industries and mines Owais Ahmad Ghani has urged the Afghan carpet makers in Peshawar to concentrate at one place.

22 June

Some fifty to sixty thousand Afghan nationals are residing in Saudi Arabia on Pakistani passports, Afghan charge d'affairs ' Maulavi Abdul Wahab said.

22 June

Afghanistan Embassy beat Tajikistan Embassy 4-2 in the 6th PTV Soccer Tournament at Jinnah Stadium.

23 June

The management of Pakistan Television has lifted bans on the Afghan artists' appearing in various programmes of the PTV Peshawar Centre and has allowed the producers to cast Afghan artists for further improving the standard of Peshawar Centre's programmes.

26 June

Senior officials of the Taliban government have given the outgoing Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan, Aziz Ahmad Khan, a hearty farewell, the Radio Sharia reported. The radio said that during the meeting Aziz, whose term of office has expired in Afghanistan, noted the good and friendly relations between the two Muslim and neighbouring countries.

27 June

Afghan Ambassador Syed Mohammad Haqqani has said his country was a victim of baseless propaganda from the West on the issue of drug manufacturing and trafficking, adding Taliban had imposed curbs on poppy cultivation.

30 June

Asking the Taliban to allow women work in its projects, the World Food Program urged the UN and the international community to intensify their efforts for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.



Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief



News Summary – July 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

1 July

The US has donated 85,000 tons of wheat for the arought-ridden people of Afghanistan as part of the WFP assistance for the country.

1 July

The US decided to continue National Emergency assistance to Afghanistan.

1 July

The education officials for the Afghan refugees in the NWFP have decided to introduce a uniform education syllabus for the Afghan schools in the province.

1 July

A group of Afghan refugees left Quetta for Kandahar in southern Afghanistan as repatriation of refugees resumes from Pakistan. UNHCR officials said.

1 July

The Government of Japan announced a fresh ntribution of \$ 4.2 million for emergency relief in Afghanistan.

14 July

Speakers at a meeting called upon the government to let 12,000 Afghan students have access to primary education in some 30 schools in Hayatabad, said a press release.

15 July

Some 40,000 Afghan refugees in Iran have been repatriated since the April 8 start of a programme organized by the UNHCR, reported Iranian radio.

18 July

Iran has provided humanitarian aid including food

commodities and blankets to the drought stricken Afghans in the mountainous Dara-e-Souf area of Samangan province, reports Radio Tehran.

19 July

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) announced a major relief operation to help more than 1.6 million people survive the worst drought in Afghanistan during the past three decades.

19 July

The Kuwait Joint Relief Committee and Islamic Relief have distributed food packages to 1,000 households in the drought affected southwest region of Afghanistan.

31 July

A total of 200 Afghan families, comprising of 900 persons left Peshawar for Afghanistan via Quetta.

31 July

As part of the voluntary repatriation program for refugees, 431 Afghan refugees have returned from Iran to their homeland since the beginning of the current Iranian year on March 20.

21 July

Several "tense days of discussion " with leaders of the fundamentalist Taliban regime in Peshawar failed to lift a ban on working women, said UN coordinator for Afghanistan Eric de Mul.

Military Developments

1 July

Fierce fighting broke out north of the Afghan capital Kabul as both sides of the country's bitter civil war accused each other of launching a major summer offensive.

by the Taliban to resolve the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane. "Following the peaceful end of the hijacking, we think it is time when India has a great opportunity to consider starting diplomatic relations with the Taliban, which is the legitimate government of Afghanistan", said the Taliban representative to the UN Abdul Hakeem Mujahid.

5 January

The Taliban has denied reports that the hijackers of the Indian Airlines received additional weapons while the plane was parked at Kandahar airport. Reports from Nice, France, quoted three former French hostages as saying that they saw crates of new and modern weapons being brought into the Indian Airlines plane at Kandahar.

7 January

The Indian External Affairs Minister has invited the Taliban's Foreign Minister Mawlavi Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil to visit New Delhi this month.

- 15 January

Ukraine launched an appeal for help to trace the 75 soldiers who went missing during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. "More than ten years have passed since the withdrawal of the former Soviet troops from Afghanistan but our countrymen who participated in the combat operations have not yet returned to their motherland", Ukrainian Charge d'Affaires, VS Ponomarenko, stated during a visit to Peshawer.

17 January

The Taliban rejected Russian charges that they had agreed to provide military and other assistance to the government in Chechnya. Mohammad Tayyab Agha, a spokesman for Taliban Leader Mulla Mohammad Omar, said the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan had granted only diplomatic recognition to Chechnya as an independent country.

17 January

The Taliban called on the Muslim world to join Kabul in opening diplomatic relations with the government of Chechnya.

17 January

Francese Vendrell, a Spanish law Professor and senior UN official, has been appointed head of the UN special mission in Afghanistan. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, named Vendrell as his personal representative to Afghanistan with the rank of Assistant Secretary General. Vedrell, 59, joined the UN in 1969 and has held various positions in the department of political affairs.

19 January

Moscow has called on the UN to counter what it termed the Taliban's "aggressive plan" toward Russia. The "Taliban have re-identified their aggressive intentions by their decision to recognise Chechnya as an independent state", Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov was quoted.

20 January

India has bitterly criticised the Taliban for recognising the sovereignty of Chechnya.

20 January

The Taliban Supreme Leader, Mulla Mohammad Omar, has asked the UN and the OIC to find a negotiated settlement to the Chechnya issue.

20 January

A six member Iranian delegation arrived in Kabul to hold talks with Taliban officials.

20 January

Over 150 Afghans are being invited to a meeting in Cyprus, Greece in mid-February to discuss plans for holding a Loya Jarga to resolve the Afghan problem. The Cyprus meeting aimed at bringing peace in Afghanistan and installing Zahir Shah as the head of an interim government.

21 January

The Taliban have again turned down the US request to hand over Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden for trial on charges of terrorism, renewing assurance that he will not operate against the US from the Afghan soil. The matter came under discussion in a high level meeting between the Taliban officials and the US delegation in Islamabad.

22 January

The Taliban offered all out support for Chechnya and the Chechen delegation in Afghanistan hopes to open an embassy in Kabul, the BBC reported. The Taliban became the first government in the world to recognise Chechnya as an independent state.

22 January

The UN Secretary General's new Envoy for Afghanistan, Francese Vendrall, has told the BBC that the world body would extent activities in Afghanistan by opening offices in Kabul, Kandahar and Iran. The UN envoy is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad on February 3 on his first visit to the region to familiarise himself with the situation in Afghanistan.

8 July

The Afghan Northern Alliance claimed to have killed at least 500 Taliban in the latest round of fighting in the north of Kabul.

9 July

The opposition Northern Alliance has claimed to foil the Tailban's offensive at Dara-e-Souf in Samangan province in northern Afghanistan, reports Radio Tehran.

10 July

Forces of Taliban captured Khala Zaye village, close to the Bagram air base and the main road leading towards Masood's bases further north from opponents led by Commander Ahmad Shah Masood in fierce fighting north of Kabul, said travelers from the area.

11 July

Witnesses coming from the battlefield 50 kilometers north of Kabul said the fighting, which raged all the last day was of unprecedented intensity and both sides in the civil war were exhausted.

16 July

The Afghan opposition warned that the ruling Taliban militia was planning another attack after two assaults against their positions north of Kabul earlier this month.

20 July

The Afghan opposition northern alliance claimed to have repulsed Taliban's offensive on its positions in the northern Afghan province of Balkh, reports Radio Tehran.

21 July

The Taliban have made some arrests and alerted their troops and supporters in areas bordering Pakistan following media reports that former mujahideen commander Shariati was planning military operations against them in eastern Afghanistan.

22 July

The US will not offer development or military aid to the northern alliance in Afghanistan, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Karl Inderfurth told a congressional committee.

23 July

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban have claimed full control over the eastern provinces including Kunar bordering Pakistan, Governor Nangarhar province Maulavi Abdul Qabeer told the BBC.

24 July

Taliban jets pounded northern Afghanistan Sunday in a fresh round of fighting that killed three civilians and wounded seven others, said the opposition soldiers.

29 July

In a fresh offensive in the northern province of Baghlan, the Taliban militia captured Nehreen town, which was controlled by Ahmad Shah Masood.

30 July

Afghanistan's Taliban militia cut a major opposition strategic supply route as fierce battles raged for a second day in the northern Baghlan province, anti-Taliban officials conceded.

31 July

The ruling Taliban Islamic militia has captured another key town in northern Afghanistan as they tighten their grip on the opposition's crucial supply lines, said opposition sources.

31 July

Fierce fighting was reported between the government and opposition forces in Takhar, reports the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

Political Developments

4 July

Accused terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden has moved his base from Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan to a safer spot in the country's interior, reported the Washington Times.

4 July

Even though the ruling Taliban and the opposition Northern Alliance in Afghanistan are engaged in fighting, they have sent their nominees to visit each other's prisons to prepare for an exchange of prisoners.

8 July

The people of Nangarhar, the eastern provinces of Afghanistan, have supported the convening of loya jirga, demanding the forthwith resignation of Mulla Omar and Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani.

13 July

Northern Alliance leader, Commander Ahmad Shah Masood, has expressed a willingness to form a joint government with the Taliban for six months or for a year to end the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

14 July

The US has decided to mount more pressure on the Taliban to force it to expel Osama bin Laden, described as a criminal in the militia's "basement".

14 July

The ruling Taliban of Afghanistan are ready to take the opposition into government to bring peace to the warravaged country, Afghan Embassy spokesman Qazi Habibullah Fauzi said.

15 July

The Islamabad-based UN Coordination for Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan, Eric de Mul has played a major role in the release of American aid worker, Mary MacMakin, reports BBC.

15 July

Denying having sent a message to General Pervez Musharraf not to visit Afghanistan if he wanted concessions from the Taliban on the Osama bin Laden issue, Taliban leader Mulla Mohammad Omar said Pakistan was well aware that the matter concerned the Afghan government and the US.

15 July

The expelled US national Mary MacMakin has said that the situation in Afghanistan would further worsen if the UN slammed further sanctions on the war-raved country.

16 July

The leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement said he would not hand over terrorism suspect Osama bin Laden to the US because it would cause suffering among Afghans, reported a newspaper.

20 July

Dr. Zalmay Rasool the head of the Rome-based office of the former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah has termed his talks with Pakistani officials on Afghan traditional Loya Jirga as satisfactory.

21 July

India and Iran called for an end to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and said a broad-based government should assume power in the capital of the war-torn country.

22 July

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Karl Inderfurth has said the US will lend support other countries in the region to bring Afghanistan's civil war to an end.

25 July

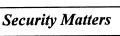
Afghanistan's ruling Taliban have turned down proposal for the formation of a coalition government in Afghanistan.

26 July

A recent Radio Tehran report has pointed to differences among the ranks of the ruling Taliban of Afghanistan, recently reflected by the debate of lifting the ban on television.

26 July

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban assured China that they would not allow anyone to use the Afghan territory against Beijing.



2 July

Foreign volunteers captured while fighting alongside Afghanistan's Taliban militia will be court-martialled as spies and possibly executed, a senior Opposition spokesman said.

2 July

Renewed fighting between Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia and opposition forces left 30 civilians dead, scores of fighters injured and hundreds of people forced to flee their homes in north of Kabul.

3 July

Thousands of people were heading towards the Panjshir Valley to flee fighting that erupted north of Kabul, reports Azadi Afghan Radio.

3 July

Muhammad Jan, member of the central committee of Hizb-e- Mubarezeene Islami Afghanistan was shot dead at his residence in Kohat, Peshawar.

7 July

Sakhi Murad, an active leader of Hizb-e-Islami (Hekmatyar) sustained serious bullet injuries when unknown persons opened fire on him in Hayatabad in Peshawar.

11 July

Afghanistan's Taliban militia arrested an American woman who was the head of Kabul-based Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Support for Afghanistan (PARSA) and her staff from a foreign aid group as they tried to enforce laws against local women working, said the officials and aid workers.

11 July

Two soldiers of Taliban militia were killed, while 15 others were wounded when the locals of Charasiab raised voice against the ruling militia over a water dispute.

11 July

The Pakistan embassy in Kabul was severely damaged as a result of a powerful blast caused by a hand-grenade hurled at the compound by unidentified persons.

12 July

Two UN officials met with US aid worker Mary MacMakin and her Afghan colleagues, who have been arrested by the ruling Taliban on unspecified charges, said aid workers.

12 July

Due to intensified fighting between warring Afghan factions movement between Pakistan and Afghanistan has increased and the law enforcing agencies are guarding the borders and arresting the suspected people in this connection.

12 July

The US State Department has asked the Taliban to release the American aid worker, Mary MacMakin, who was arrested along with at least six Afghan women she employed.

13 July

The Taliban government ordered a US aid worker to leave Afghanistan, accusing her of spying before releasing her from four-day detention.

13 July

The entire 725 kms of Iran's joint borders with Afghanistan was closed down as part of measures to fight threats to security and criminal banditry.

16 July

In a blatant instance of misuse of power, Aabpara Police harassed five Afghan women for spreading allegedly obscenity in the Melody Market and kept them in illegal detention for hours.

16 July

Some unidentified persons murdered an Afghan woman who was cutting grass in the forest area of 1-10/3 in Peshawar. Meanwhile, two girls were abducted from the capital territory.

17 July

US Coordination for anti-terrorism affairs Michael Sheehan has said that the US administration should work with Pakistan which itself is victim of terrorism and pressure should be mounted on the Taliban so that the threat of terrorism in the region can be eliminated, reports VOA.

17 July

As many as 30 Arab nationals have left Pakistan for Afghanistan to avoid arrest at the hands of Pakistani security agencies for deportation to their home countries, sources told The News.

18 July

In a bid to foil the peace initiatives in favour of a traditional Loya Jirga, the Taliban authorities continued

crackdown against those peace loving Afghans in Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar and other provinces of the country, who are backing former king Zahir Shah peace efforts.

18 July

Police traced the murderer of an Afghan woman who was found slaughtered in the green belt of I-10/3 a couple of days back.

18 July

A bomb exploded outside the residence of Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan, said Taliban officials. The Taliban called the bombing a "terrorist attack" and blamed their northern-based opposition. No one was injured in bombing.

18 July

The local authorities have arrested prominent Afghan commander and chief of his recently formed Council for Peace and Unity, Abdul Qahar commonly known as Shariati. Abdul Qahar, who belongs to Laghman province, recently emerged on the Afghan political scene when he formed a new front to replace the Taliban.

21 July

An Afghan commander was killed in Gulbahar area. According to police officials, the dead body of the deceased was found from Toheed Colony in Gulbahar area.

21 July

At least 22 people were killed in fresh fighting between the Taliban and Northern Alliance forces in Bagram, north of Kabul.

22 July

Dozens of giant containers filled with fuel exploded in Afghanistan's capital filling the night sky with giant plumes of smoke and sending frighten residents scurrying for cover within their homes, said witnesses. There were no injuries in the explosion, which occurred late on Thursday.

22 July

A powerful bomb explodes in the troubled capital of Kabul killing one person believed by the Taliban to be the man who planted the bomb.

24 July

An armed Afghan drug dealer who had illegally crossed the border into Tajikistan killed in a shoot out with Russian frontier guards, the border guard press service announced.

26 July

The Central Intelligence Office in Kabul issued to its officials in Peshawar a list of 14 Afghan leaders, ordering their elimination for "working against Afghanistan".

26 July

Two more blasts have rocked Kabul, the latest in a series of mysterious explosions around Pakistani or government facilities this month. They caused no injuries or damage, said witnesses.

29 July

Nabi, an elder of Shinwari tribe of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, was found dead on the premises of Jalalabad Airport.

29 July

The head of a leading Peshawar-based NGO was arrested from Afghanistan and brought to Hayatabad area of Peshawar by a federal law-enforcing agency.

30 July

An Afghan national was arrested after the personnel of secret agency recovered ammunition and explosives from a truck, which was hired by him.

30 July

The body of a 35-year-old Afghan married woman was found with her throat cut in her shanty in Dhoke Banaras, said police.

31 July

Land mines are threatening the lives of thousands of Afghan families displaced by a severe drought in the country's north, said a Western demining agency.

Other News

3 July

Khurshid, an Afghan refugee, was caught red-handed while taking away the box of a moneychanger in Khyber Bazaar, Peshawar, where he was offered Rs 500 for the theft.

3 July

The bodies of three Pakistanis and one Afghan killed in the latest fighting in Afghanistan arrived Peshawar for their last rites, officials at the Khyber Pass border crossing said.

6 July

A total of 41 Afghan nationals, including 13 children, who had been trying to slip into Australia, are stranded in

the Indonesia port city of Surabaya awaiting a decision on their fate, said reports.

6 July

A speeding flying coach hit an Afghan national on the main Jamrud road near Hayatabad town.

8 July

The Taliban government asked all hairdressers to refrain from trimming beards and cutting hair in European styles while the tailors have been warned against taking measurements for women's clothes at their shops. The decree further said that those who violate the government decree would face five months prison and a fine of 20,00,000 Afghani.

9 July

The UN has said that reservoirs, dams and rivers have dried up in many areas of southwest Afghanistan and has warned of forthcoming difficulties.

14 July

Mary MacMackin, the expelled US aid worker, said she hoped to resume work in Kabul in a month or two. She termed her arrest and detention in Kabul the result of her continued defiance to the basic policy of the ruling Taliban to disallow women to work in her organization.

15 July

Women rights activists have expressed deep concern for Afghan women if the status quo continues it under the Taliban.

17 July

Pakistan could face a fresh influx of Afghan refugees from Kandahar and other provinces in southwestern Afghanistan due to severe drought.

18 July

The forces of Ahmad Shah Masud have about 1,000 prisoners of war (POWs), most of them Pakistanis, kept in Panjshir Valley in northern Afghanistan.

19 July

A Pakistani diplomat criticized the arrest in Afghanistan of visiting Pakistani soccer players and the shaving of their heads because they were wearing shorts.

19 July

In a bid to reduce tension among the regional countries in general and Pakistan and Iran in particular, the UNHCR has announced voluntary repatriation of around 100,000 Afghan refugees.

19 July

An Afghan officer in charge of religious police who shaved the heads of 12 Pakistani footballers for wearing shorts has been sacked, reports the BBC.

20 July

Afghanistan's government dismissed an overzealous official, who arrested Pakistani football players and shaved for wearing shorts, said a report.

21 July

The incident of shaving the heads of Pakistani soccer players in Kandahar was not a national insult as Afghanistan has formally offered apologies over the incident, a Foreign Office official said while talking to the News.

22 July

Two Afghan quacks along with three para-medical staff were intercepted red-handedly by District Army Monitoring Team (DMT), Attock, on the charge of illegal medical practice near Bajli Ghar Road in Peshawar.

24 July

Taliban's Information Minister Qudratullah Jamal denied press reports that the ruling militia was considering a proposal to resume television broadcasts.

24 July

A proposal to set up a Taliban television station in Afghanistan is to be put to the leadership of the movement, sources said in Peshawar.

25 July

The severe drought, which has hit much of Afghanistan, is affecting the capital's hydro-electric power supply, forcing authorities to begin unexpected summer daytime loadshedding, said officials.

27 July

The UN humanitarian agencies have warned that more than 60 million people in Central and South Asia are currently affected by severe drought, says a United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) newsletter.

28 July

The State Bank of Pakistan has in principle allowed the Bank of Kyber to open its branches in Afghanistan.

28 July

British officials pledged to investigate reports that a former Afghan commander, blamed for some of the worst acts of his country's civil war, was living as an asylum seeker in London. The BBC tracked down Commander Zardat to residential street in the south of London where, it said, he is living under several false names and drawing welfare benefits.

30 July

The Taliban have launched monthly magazines in English and Arabic named Islamic Emirate and Al-

Emirate-i-Islamia to explain their policies and highlight their achievements.

31 July

Money earned from the emeralds extracted from the mines of north-western Afghanistan are being spent on the war activities of commander Ahmad Shah Masood, according to a report by The Science Christian Monitor.

31 July

Mulla Mohammad Omer Akhund, supreme leader of Taliban Islamic Movement has announced the imposition of a ban on poppy cultivation crop in Afghanistan and urged the Afghans to stop its cultivation.



Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief



News Summary - August 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

5 August

A unified curriculum designed by Nebraska Education Centre has been announced for all schools for Afghan refugees' children in the NWFP, which will be started from September 1.

10 August

Pakistan handed over the first consignment of machinery equipment worth Rs 22.79 million to Afghanistan for the construction, repair and maintenance of roads in that country.

16 August

The United Nations Security Council has given approval for the national Afghan airline, Ariana, to fly a group of sick children about 135, to Germany for treatment, reports BBC.

19 August

Sixteen trucks carrying 113 tones of Saudi relief goods for drought stricken Afghans left the Saudi Consulate in Peshawar for Afghanistan.

21 Augusi

The national museum of Afghanistan has reopened for the first time in a decade and features a major new exhibit feared lost in the civil war.

29 August

Iran repatriated 346 Afghan refugees living in Isfahan, reported the official IRNA news agency from Tehran.

30 August

Chinese Ambassador Lu Shulin handed over medicines, tents, blankets and clothes worth two million Yuan for Afghan Refugees to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

31 August

The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is desperately short of funds to carry out its voluntary repatriation program for Afghan refugees, said a UN official.

Military Developments

1 August

F ierce battles along Afghanistan's northern frontlines subsided as both sides of the conflict accused each other of starting the latest round of summer skirmishes.

2 August

Taliban have launched small probing attacks around an opposition stronghold in northern Takhar province, said sources from the resistance camp.

2 August

Taliban troops captured three posts in Eshkimish, a strong base of Ahmad Shah Masood, in Takhar province, reported the Afghan Islamic Press.

4 August

The Taliban overran the key northern town of Ishkamish, Takhar, in fierce fighting killing dozens of opposition troops and tightening their grip on the country, said the senior opposition spokesman Mohammad Yunus Oanooni.

4 August

Afghanistan's warring factions fought fiercely in the northern mountains, ignoring the Taliban's reclusive leader's appeal for peace, said an opposition spokesman.

6 August

Fighting intensified in northern Afghanistan as opposition forces launched an attack, killing 60 Taliban soldiers and gaining territory in the Salang area, said the opposition officials.

7 August

Heavy fighting raged in northeastern Afghanistan with the Taliban trying to advance on the opposition stronghold of Taloqan, said the opposition sources.

8 August

Ruling Taliban in Afghanistan advanced on the opposition's main bastion of Taloqan after capturing a key northern town overnight, said Afghan sources.

9 August

Northern Alliance forces in Afghanistan are bracing for an onslaught from the Taliban militia on their stronghold of Taloqan after heavy overnight clashes, said the opposition spokesman Muhammad Habeel.

10 August

Taliban forces entered the suburbs of a key opposition base on the border with Tajikistan after repulsing a counter-attack, said the Afghan Islamic Press.

10 August

Fierce fighting erupted between Taliban and the opposition on the outskirts of the strategic city of Taloqan, provincial capital of Takhar in Northern Afghanistan.

10 August

Afghanistan's Taliban militia has launched two full-scale attacks on the key northeastern town of Taloqan but were beaten back, said the opposition sources.

11 August

Afghan opposition troops captured some high ground near Taloqan as the ruling Taliban militia regrouped for another assault on the embattled city, said the resistance sources.

12 August

The surface-to-air missiles fired by Tamil Tiger rebels on the air force MiG-27 fighter aircraft could have been acquired from the Taliban in Afghanistan, said the military officers. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam had paid \$20 million to the Taliban for the purchase of military hardware.

13 August

Fighting again flared up in Afghanistan's Takhar province and the opposition forces carried out lighting counterattacks against the Taliban, said Abdullah, a senior spokesman for Commander Ahmad Shah Masud.

16 August

Afghan opposition has claimed that its forces have captured Baharak town of northern Takhar province from the Taliban.

17 August

The Afghan anti-Taliban alliance claimed their fighters had gained territory in the key province of Samangan.

18 August

The Northern Alliance in Afghanistan said it has pushed to the outskirts of a key Taliban-held town in the north of the country.

18 August

Heavy casualties were reported in fresh fierce fighting between the forces of the Taliban and resistance forces to capture Samangan. Thirteen Taliban were killed, an important commander of Northern Alliance, along with dozens of his men were injured.

19 August

The Taliban launched a multi-pronged attack on United Front forces to capture Taloqan City, said reports from northern Afghanistan.

20 August

Afghan opposition forces led by commander Ahmad Shah Masood said they captured some strategic areas from the ruling Taliban movement in the east of the country after heavy fighting, Dara-i-Noor district in Jalalabad was completely cleared of Taliban.

21 August

Governor central Afghan province of Bamyan, Maulavi Islam, has parted ways with the Taliban after developing differences with the student militia, reported Radio Tehran.

21 August

Taliban militia drove opposition forces out of Dara-i-Noor in the eastern province of Nangarhar as fierce fighting raged, said the officials.

22 August

Including their commander in Takhar province, 75 Taliban soldiers were killed by Northern Alliance forces, claimed Afghan opposition spokesman Muhamad Habeel.

22 August

The battle for the occupation of Dara-i-Noor in the Eastern Afghanistan province of Ningarhar continued in which three Taliban fighters were killed and three injured.

23 August

Afghanistan's opposition soldiers fought bitterly to stop Taliban troops from capturing a key northern district that would have cut a critically supply route, said the Opposition spokesman Mohammad Habeel.

25 August

Four commanders with 110 Taliban fighters have joined the opposition forces in the eastern Afghan province of Laghman, said a report quoting opposition sources.

26 August

Fierce fighting crupted near the Afghan capital as opposition forces claimed success with a series of raids from positions at Bagram, said the sources and reports.

29 August

Northern Alliance forces have captured two districts (Aligar and Nangraji) from the Taliban in the eastern Laghman province of Afghanistan, claimed alliance spokesman.

31 August

Afghan opposition forces claimed that they had taken control of a district in the eastern Nangarhar province which borders Pakistan, reported a private news agency.

Political Developments

1 August

Afghan opposition northern alliance urged the UN to impose more sanctions on the Taliban for initiating fresh war in Afghanistan.

2 August

Afghan Taliban leader Mulla Mohammad Omar offered amnesty to his opponents promising security to those who join his government, the Afghan Islamic Press reported.

3 August

Residence forces in Afghanistan rejected an effort of amnesty from the supreme leader of the ruling Taliban militia, saying his words were hollow and their fight would go on.

5 August

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned the Taliban regime in Afghanistan that its ban on working women could undermine foreign aid to the drought-stricken country.

6 August

Afghan Council in Peshawar outrightly denied the news about any secret connections between the Taliban Militia and Russia, reports Afghan Islamic Press.

7 August

The Taliban slammed a Moscow-Washington agreement for closer cooperation against the alleged threat of terrorism from Afghanistan, said an Afghan Foreign Ministry statement.

8 August

Stepping up its campaign against the Taliban government in Afghanistan, the US said it is conferring with other UN Security Council members on the possibility of imposing an arms embargo against that country.

8 August

The former Afghan ambassador in Malaysia and representative of Hezb-e-Islami in Islamabad, Haji Mangal Hussain has asked the UN to play its positive role in stopping, the ongoing civil war, restoration of peace and for the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

8 August

The UN will launch an inquiry into the killing of seven Afghans working for OMAR agency on mine-clearance programmes in western Afghanistan, said a UN official.

9 August

The Television Wing of BBC has exposed the misdeeds of former Zardad Commander Hizbe Islami (Hekmatyar) who had established his rule in Sarobi near Kabul for around three years.

9 August

The Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Masood has sent a special delegation to Uzbekistan, to seek the support of the former Uzbek warlord, Abdur Rashid Dostum against Taliban.

9 August

More sanctions against Afghanistan would spark a global Islamic backlash and destroy any chance for negotiations over the trial of alleged terrorist Osama bin Laden, said the Taliban Information Minister Qudratullah Jamal.

10 August

Alleged international terrorist Osama bin Laden was accused by the Philippine government of bankrolling Filipino Muslim extremists who are holding more than a dozen hostages on this remote Philippine island.

12 August

The Afghan government is not ready to convene a Loya Jirga under the prevailing circumstances, said Ahmad Musa, member of Zahir Shah's team.

12 August

Talks between Taliban and the delegation of former king, Zahir Shah has failed in Kandahar, said the BBC reporters.

16 August

The idea of convening a Loya Jirga was rejected by the Taliban in a recent meeting between former Afghan King Zahir Shah's envoy and the Taliban leaders based in Kandahar.

16 August

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami called for international action to save the people of neighboring

Afghanistan, hit by civil war and drought, reported the state radio.

18 August

The Taliban and their opponents swapped two prisoners of war amid renewed fighting, said the official sources.

19 August

The International Olympic Committee (I0C) has rejected an appeal by Afghanistan to be allowed to send a team to the Sydney Olympic next month because the Taliban administration in not internationally recognised.

20 August

Afghanistan said it would not extradite Osama bin Laden despite US demands.

23 August

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia rejected allegations it runs training camps for Islamic militants operating in Central Asia and warned its northern neighbours against any military intervention.

23 August

Abdul Qadeer Imam, member of the proposed Loya Jirga, sponsored by former Afghan King, has said that Zahir Shah had never intended to grab power through the traditional way of solving the national problems of Afghan nations.

24 August

The Taliban government in Afghanistan made key changes in its cabinet, including the replacement of its ambassador to Pakistan, reported the daily newspaper of the militia, Anis.

25 August

Afghanistan's seat in the UN should be given to the ruling Islamic militia since we have fulfilled all the conditions for the recognition a government, demanded the Taliban.

29 August

The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has held the Afghans affiliated with Khalq, Parcham, Jehadic and Taliban factions responsible for the last 21 year acts and demanded their trial by the global forums.

31 August

The UN threats cannot force Afghanistan to expel Osama bin Laden as he is a guest of Afghan people, said Taliban Supreme leader Mulla Muhammad Omar. Security Matters

5 August

Another Afghan, Marjan the leader of the Organising Committee of Afghanistan's Shura for Peace has been arrested by the personnel of secret agencies from Peshawar and shifted to unknown place.

7 August

Seven Afghans working with the UN-funded mines clearing organisation in Afghanistan along with five locals were killed after the alleged supporters of former Herat Governor Ismail Khan attacked them, said the present Governor Maulavi Kkairullah Khairkhwa.

7 August

Sensitive agencies have set a stage for another round of crackdown on anti-Taliban elements residing in Peshawar, and more than six other figures who belong to different opposition groups of Afghanistan, including retired military officials.

11 August

In their continuous crackdown against rivals, the Taliban authorities have arrested 80 people from the border town of Jalalabad. Most of them are associated with Abdul Qahar Shariati and some of them are supporters of former king Mohammad Zahir Shah.

11 August

Twelve Afghan illegal immigrants were discovered in a lorry transporting pharmaceutical products to the northern town of Seelze, said the police. They were all arrested along with the truck driver and co-driver, who were suspected of illegally smuggling people into the country.

13 August

The Afghan opposition has claimed that five Taliban commanders are among 150 Taliban fighters, who have been killed in the recent fighting in the northern Takhar province, said an opposition statement.

16 August

An Afghan who served as a caretaker in Afghanistan's health department in Kabul claimed that he had survived an assassination attempt in which his two bodyguards were killed.

16 August

Abdullah Jan Wahidi, former Governor of Afghanistan's central Laghman province, fled from Kabul and rejoined forces with the United Islamic Front, reported IRNA.

18 August

Iranian police arrested 120 Afghans in the eastern province of Zahedan who entered the country illegally, said the press reports.

23 August

An Afghan national was killed and another person was injured when a missile, fired in a clash between two tribes in Teerah Valley, landed and exploded in Lachi area, said eyewitnesses.

24 August

Pakistani police arrested two Afghans and seized 1.5 kilograms of heroin during a raid on a refugee camp in Karachi.

26 August

Two persons were killed in an armed clash between two Afghan tribes in Khost and Paktia provinces of Afghanistan due to a dispute on ownership of a hill.

26 August

Police raided a den of gamblers in Sanjwal Cantt. and arrested six Afghans.

28 August

'aliban authorities publicly hanged a ruling militia soldier for allegedly killing three women and abducting another in Takhar province in northeastern Afghanistan, said the state radio.

28 August

Six Afghan drug traffickers have been killed in a shootout with Russian soldiers patrolling Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan, said the border guard service.



1 August

The ruling Taliban militia's supreme leader, Mulla Mohammad Omar, said that discontent with his rule and the shirking of religious duties are to blame for Afghanistan's worst drought in 30 years.

1 August

Paris-based press forum, Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), expressed concern for the safety of an Afghan journalist in Pakistan said to be facing threats from the Taliban militia.

2 August

Saudi Arabia executed an Afghan convicted of smuggling heroin into the kingdom, raising the number of people put to death this year to 79.

3 August

The Taliban government in a bid to discourage smuggling of food items from Afghanistan has started searching all the vehicles crossing the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham, said eyewitnesses and political administration sources.

4 August

Leading elders of the Afghan community residing in the North Waziristan Agency tribal belt expressed their inability regarding their return to Afghanistan due to what they call unrealistic policies of Taliban authorities.

5 August

A pilot of the ruling Taliban militia in Afghanistan has defected to the opposition with his jet, said Muhammad Habeel a spokesman for anti-Taliban military commander Ahmad Shah Masud.

6 August

The United Front of Afghanistan has accused Taliban of removing vital organs from Afghan civilians for financial gains. The organs were transported to another country and the victims were left to die.

6 August

Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Kabul, Arif Ayub, has said that Iran is fully exploiting the market in Afghanistan due to ban on the export of Pakistani goods to that country.

7 August

The UN is blackmailing Afghanistan by insisting on the distribution of relief goods through its agencies said ruling militia's envoy in New York, Abdul Hakim Mujahid, told the BBC.

8 August

Afghan diplomats were involved in last-ditch negotiations to ensure athletes from Afghanistan were allowed to compete at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

8 August

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement has replaced the police chief of the capital Kabul after a recent crime wave and series of bomb blasts, said the residents.

9 August

Eighty Afghan immigrants who were apparently being smuggled into Iran in a lorry were hurt when the driver dozed off and crashed, said the official IRNA news agency.

9 August

The Balochistan government has agreed to a request from the ruling Taliban of Afghanistan to free all Afghans from jails that are not charged with serious crimes.

9 August

The UN suspended demining operations in Afghanistan's Badghis area, and launched an inquiry into the murder of seven deminers there on the weekend, said a UN statement.

22 January

The Taliban Foreign Minister, Wakil Ahamd Mutawakil, arrived in Islamabad for talks with Pakistani officials on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

23 January

The Chechen government officially opened it's Embassy in Kabul a week after it's recognition, Taliban sources said. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Taliban Deputy Foreign Minister, Mawlavi Abdurrahman Zahed, and Zelimkhan Yanderiyev, a visiting Chechen official.

24 January

Briefing the Taliban Foreign Minister, Mawlavi Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Satter, said that Pakistan and Iran would launch joint efforts for reconciliation between the Taliban administration and its Opposition Northern Alliance, with the ultimate objective to bring peace to Afghanistan. The decision was taken during the recent visit of Chief Executive Gen. Pervez Musharft to Iran.

26 January

The people of Khost have threatened to rise against the Taliban for their alleged selling of state land to foreigners and sending the financial income out of the Province, reported the BBC. The elders of Khost Province have given the Taliban an ultimatum to settle the issue within 15 days, otherwise they would face an uprising.

25 January

Arab youth have began arriving in Kabul to strengthen Taliban ranks in the civil war after being recruited by the student militia, Radio Tehran has alleged. The report said that it had initially been believed that some Afghans had been expelled from UAE but on their arrival in Kabul it came to light that they were not Afghans but Arabs allegedly involved in different crimes.

25 January

Pakistan has agreed to mediate between the Taliban and Iranian government to remove any misunderstanding that may exist between the two sides.

26 January

The Taliban agreed in principle to allow foreign electronic media to set up offices in Afghanistan. Sources close to the Taliban leadership said the Taliban lifted a ban on taking pictures and making films by allowing the CNN and Al-Jazeera TV to open offices in Kabul.

26 January

Taliban Foreign Minister, Mawlavi Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, has said that Pakistan has agreed in principle to resolve the issues of Afghan Transit Trade and refugee problems and a formal announcement would be made during the upcoming visit of Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan, Mulla Rabbani, to Pakistan.

27 January

The Taliban changed the governor of Khost Province due to pressure from the local population to remove Haji Agha, the previous governor. The local people allege that the Taliban officials were selling state property against the will of the local people which was the main cause of tension.

30 January

Pakistan's Chief Executive Gen. Pervez Musharaf has said he will soon visit Afghanistan to discuss the Afghan scenario, Osama bin Laden and training camps for terrorism in Afghanistan with the Taliban.



5 January

The Taliban released 90 prisoners from the Kabul's main jail in honour of the Eid-al-Fiter festival.

7 January

The Taliban executed two brothers accused of murder in front of thousands of spectators at a mosque in the Eastern Province of Nangarhar.

13 January

Burglars broke into the main money market in Kabul and stole more then US \$200,000 dollars, money changers said. Shopkeepers blamed Taliban soldiers who had been posted inside the market as guards.

14 January

The situation in the Badakhshan Province is tense amid reports that Ahmad Shah Masood's loyalists have arrested about 100 people from rival groups including women to avenge the murder of Commander Najmuddin Wasiq.

20 January

The Taliban have publicly executed a murder in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

11 August

Dealers in opium and heroin in Afghanistan say prices have risen substantially since the Taliban decreed a ban on poppy cultivation.

12 August

A group of Afghan refugees consisting of 37 families, (171 individuals) has been repatriated from the Northwest Frontier Province to the eastern Afghan province of Ningarhar, said a UNHCR spokesman.

12 August

The Taliban closed public bathhouses in the Afghan capital because Islam forbids men to publicly display their bodies, said a spokesman for Kabul's municipality, Ahmedullah Sahafi.

13 August

As many as 150 Afghan nationals staying illegally in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States have been deported through the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham.

16 August

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban is for the first time preparing to stage military parades and exhibitions in Kabul to celebrate the country's Independence Day.

17 August

The Taliban ordered the UN to close those bakeries that provided subsidised bread to widows because they employed women-all of them widows.

20 August

More than 200,000 people have been displaced from the northern towns of Nahreen, Taloqan, Eshkamish and Burka in Takhar province due to the Taliban offensives in the north, said the opposition.

20 August

Women play an active role in the cultivation of opium poppy in the northern and eastern regions of Afghanistan, said a UN report.

22 August

The Indian television report about the forced landing of a Taliban plane in Taloqan City, carrying 96 opposition prisoners, is nothing more than rubbish, said the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Maulavi Said Muhammad Haqqani.

23 August

The United Nations has said that a number of people left Taloqan and took shelter in Badakhshan and other areas to escape war in northern Afghanistan.

26 August

The international Olympic Committee withdrew an invitation to Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban militia to send two official observers to the Olympics to Sydney next month.

27 August

All Afghan refugees settled across the country were being brought under the tax net, claimed sources at the Central Board of Revenue (CBR).

27 August

Indians wants to establish a key research centre for Afghanistan affairs in New Delhi and appoint a special envoy on Afghanistan to represent the policy of the Indian government.

28 August

The 2-day workshop organized by a Swiss NGO, Geneva Foundation, in Peshawar has stressed the need for devising a national formula for the supply of basic medicines to war-ravaged Afghanistan, reports VoA.

29 August

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has welcomed what it called, the exposure of crimes of London-based former Afghan Mujahideen commander Zardad, in a BBC TV report and demanded arrest of persons like him who are responsible for heinous crimes.

30 August

A grand meeting of the Council of Understanding for National Unity of Afghanistan in Peshawar unanimously elected Haji Hayatabad as its new president, said a press release.

30 August

The Taliban authorities in Afghanistan released 85 prisoners from jail in Kandahar after their cases were considered, said reports.

30 August

A prominent Afghan opposition commander General Fahim has denied being captured by the Taliban.

31 August

Four hundred families of drought-stricken areas of rural Herat, Ghor and Badghis provinces have arrived in Heart City in Afghanistan over the past week, according to a weekly report issued by the United Nations Office for Afghan Refugees.

31 August

Mulla Mohammad Rabbani, chairman of the ruling Taliban's council of ministers, arrived in Islamabad for medical treatment, confirmed Afghan sources.



Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afgham Relief



News Summary - September 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

1 September

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia has announced a new set of rules governing UN's operations which senior UN officials said could jeopardize the world body's vital relief work in Kabul.

2 September

The UN, saying it has no money, announced it would be sharply reducing its land mine clearing operations in Afghanistan.

2 September

Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, Abbas Sarfaraz Khan called upon the international agencies to provide financial assistance for rehabilitation of basic infrastructure in war-torn Afghanistan.

2 September

The Pakistan Ministry of Commerce has approved the export of cement, rice, IG pipes, glass sheets and hardware to Afghanistan.

2 September

Nearly 1650 Afghan refugees have returned home from Qum province of Iran during the past two months.

4 September

Some 155 more Afghan refugees returned home from the central province of Iran as part of the voluntary repatriation program based on an agreement reached between Iran and the UNHCR.

5 September

A V-Sat communication link has been established between Pakistan and Afghanistan through the International Airline Transport Association (IATA) highly informed sources in the Ministry of Defense told the News.

8 September

The Movement for Democracy and Human Rights for Afghanistan (Mdhra), a new US-based Afghan political and human rights organization, was launched in Washington for the purpose of providing analysis and information to interested parties on the situation in Afghanistan.

12 September

Afghanistan provides enormous opportunities for Pakistani investors in many areas due to its improved law and order situation and incentives offered by the Afghan government.

12 September

The Taliban authorities have confirmed that they have allowed Pakistan and Turkmenistan to conduct transit trade via Afghanistan and that no duties have been levied.

13 September

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) has opened six temporary units to provide health care to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in northern Afghanistan, said a press statement.

13 September

The Pakistan government is considering reducing the export price of wheat paving the way for the export of 6 lakh tones of the commodity to Afghanistan.

13 September

Since April 8 this year, a total of 101,122 Afghans have been voluntarily repatriated to their homeland, said the Tehran-based United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

15 September

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, arrived to Islamabad on a four-day official visit to Pakistan for talks on the plight of Afghan refugees, said the UN and Pakistani officials.

The United Nations International Drugs Control Programme (UNDCP) decided to wrap up its anti-poppy cultivation programme in Afghanistan at the end of the year due to lack of funds, reported the BBC.

18 September

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, was warmly welcomed by the ruling Taliban militia when she flew into the western Afghan City of Herat for talks on repatriation of refugees.

19 September

Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Supply Corporation (PASSCO) after seeking permission from Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MINFAL), has started export to Afghanistan.

19 September

Taliban authorities exempted Pakistani traders from paying transit tax on their goods destined for Central Asia through the war-ravaged country.

26 September

The export of 10,000-tone of wheat to Afghanistan started with the delivery of 1,000 tones by the private sector.

28 September

The 19th convoy of Afghan refugees, consisting of 423 people, left Shiraz City of Iran for Afghanistan, reports Radio Tehran.

29 September

The Italian government established a fund with an initial endowment of US\$ 4 million for the rehabilitation of the Afghan people and for activities aimed at finding a political solution to the internal strife in Afghanistan.

30 September

For the second time in five months, the female section of the Afghan University in Peshawar has been evicted by government authorities on the plea that it violated law. The management of the Afghan University is now considering approaching the court to obtain a stay order Against the PDA order.



1 September

The Afghan opposition claimed they had captured hilltops overlooking the key districts of Nahreen in northern Baghlan province in fighting with the ruling Taliban.

5 September

The ruling Taliban administration and the opposition Northern Alliance made conflicting claims as fighting resumed in Takhar province in northern Afghanistan. Taliban sources in Kabul claimed their forces had made gains on the battlefront and were advancing on Taloqan, capital of Takhar.

6 September

Opposition troops holding the embattled northeastern Afghan town of Taloqan are bracing for more attacks from "emboldened" Taliban militia forces, said a resistance spokesman.

6 September

Afghanistan's Taliban are closing in on the strategic Taloqan City, the capital of northern Afghan province of Takhar bordering Tajikistan, reports BBC.

7 September

Taliban forces captured Taloqan, provincial capital of Takhar province, from Ahmad Shah Masood and advanced towards Badakhshan by taking control of Kesham district, said the Taliban sources in Kabul.

8 September

Taliban are consolidating control of the newly captured northeastern town of Taloqan, Taliban information Minister Qudratullah Jamal told the reporters.

8 September

The anti-Taliban United Front says that sporadic fighting is still going on in the suburbs of Taloqan.

9 September

Reports reaching Peshawar indicated that the Taliban had also captured Imam Saheb district of Kunduz and Bagh district of Takhar province. There are reports that a group of about 500 people has crossed over into Pakistan via Torkham border.

10 September

The ruling Taliban militia launched new attacks in a bioto capture more territory in northeastern Takhar province of Afghanistan after taking the main city of Taloqan four days ago, said the opposition.

11 September

Fighting raged on two northern fronts between the Taliban and Opposition, as the Taliban appealed to their rivals to lay down arms for peace in the war-battered country.

11 September

At least 14 Taliban fighters were killed and more than 200 received serious injuries in a landmine explosion while advancing into Taloqan.

The Afghan Opposition claimed to have killed eight Taliban in a guerilla attack north of Kabul.

12 September

The opposition Northern Alliance in Afghanistan failed to release Taliban's pressure on Taloqan by opening another front north of Kabul, said the spokesman of the Afghan embassy Suhail Shaheen.

13 September

The Afghan opposition alliance claimed to have killed 45 Taliban during fresh fighting in Baghlan and Salang provinces.

14 September

The Taliban have captured two important heights, Seyahbarj and Lataband, in northeastern Takhar province where they seized the key opposition stronghold of Taloqan, said a report.

14 September

Afghan Opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood has launched a guerrilla war against the ruling Taliban militia in northeastern Takhar province after losing the provincial capital of Taloqan, said an opposition spokesman.

14 September

Afghan Opposition claimed to have repulsed the Taliban's offensive north east of Taloqan City.

16 September

Taliban fought off two attacks against its positions around the northeastern city of Taloqan, which they recently captured from opposition forces, said a report.

18 September

The Afghan Opposition forces flushed out Taliban troops from several key hilltops around the northeastern town of Taloqan, said the opposition spokesman Mohammad Habeel.

19 September

According to the reports the opposition deployed fresh forces in the Farkhar gorge in northeastern Takhar province.

20 September

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia moved into Imam Saheb town on the Tajikistan border after the opposition fled the area, reported the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

21 September

The Northern Alliance forces in Afghanistan recaptured the strategic northern district of Imam Sahib on the border with Tajikistan in overnight fighting, only a day after it had fallen to the ruling Taliban movement, said the opposition spokesman Mohammad Habeel.

22 September

The Taliban captured two northern towns near the Tajikistan border, forcing the opposition to retreat deeper into the northeast corner of the country.

22 September

Pro-Taliban forces attacked opposition-held Badakhshan province in northeastern Afghanistan from near Chitral and claimed to have advanced 20 kms inside the border.

23 September

The Taliban seized three key towns on the Tajikistan border, ousting Opposition forces completely from the northern Kunduz province, said the Taliban officials and reports.

23 September

The Taliban were consolidating their positions in parts of Badakhshan province, bordering Pakistan's Chitral district, after having gained a foothold there over the past two days, said a Taliban spokesman.

26 September

The government forces in Afghanistan captured Chal district in Takhar province after fierce fighting, reported the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

27 September

The government forces captured a strategic area in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan after the residents revolted against the local opposition commander, said the Taliban ambassador to Pakistan.

Political Developments

3 September

Top Afghan opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood met a senior Turkmen government representative in what could be a prelude to peace talks with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban.

3 September

Arif Ayub has been appointed as Ambassador of Pakistan to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

4 September

A Turkmenistan government emissary presented a secret peace package to the Afghan opposition urging them to reconcile with the ruling Taliban militia, said an opposition spokesman.

7 September

Mulla Abdul Salam Zaueef took charge as the new Ambassador of Afghanistan replacing Maulavi Sayed Muhammad Haqqani who will be joining the central Taliban regime in Kabul.

The ruling Taliban militia renewed its demand to occupy Afghanistan's seat at the UN, hours after its fighters captured a key opposition stronghold in the northeast of the country.

7 September

Mullah Mohammad Omer Akhund, Supreme leader of Taliban Islamic Movement has made it clear that they would not change their stand on the issue of Arab militant Osama Bin Ladin.

8 September

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban allayed fears of any involvement in neighboring Central Asian states, as its troops consolidated their positions after driving opposition forces from the key border town of Taloqan.

8 September

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers dismissed a recent US State Department report accusing the hard-line religious militia of denying religious freedom.

14 September

Rumors of Taliban intrusion into Pakistan territory have turned into reality as recently some 15 to 20 Taliban took away a number of arrow marks, installed along the Pak-Afghan border.

14 September

Tajikistan has closed its border with Afghanistan, fearing a big influx of refugees fleeing the civil war there.

18 September

The revival of the Six-plus-Two process and the meeting of top officials of the group's member countries in New York has indicated that the coming weeks would see another UN-led peace initiative on Afghanistan.

19 September

The Director of the Taliban Ministry of Justice resigned in protest after he failed to comply with the orders of his high-ups regarding political prisoners.

19 September

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and US President Bill Clinton agreed to institutionalize their contacts on Afghanistan and set up a framework for dealing with the war-ravaged country.

20 September

The Taliban government fulfilled all conditions required for official recognition of a country as member of United Nations, said the Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Maulavi Abdul Rehman Zahid.

22 September

The Taliban sent a high-level team to New York, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Abdur Rahman Zahid, this week to lobby for the Afghan United Nations seat.

23 September

Russia is ready to take part in talks with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to reach an agreement on the situation there, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov was quoted in Moscow as saying.

23 September

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers said there was no proof that Saudi born Osama bin Laden was engaged in terrorist activities.

25 September

Russia border guards in Tajikistan temporarily shut down a checkpoint on the border with Afghanistan because of fighting close to the frontier between Afghan opposition forces and the Taliban, said officials.

25 September

Uzbekistan has shifted its stance on Afghanistan, saying that Six-plus-Two group of countries is ineffective because of disunity and partial interests and cannot bring about a peace in Afghanistan.



2 September

An explosion near the boundary wall of the Pakistan consulate in Jalalabad caused cracks in the building, Consul General Said Akbar Afridi said while talking to The News. However, no one was injured.

3 September

Taliban authorities started a probe into the bomb blast in the Pakistani consulate, Deputy Governor of Nangarhar Maulavi Sadr-e-Azam told the BBC. It was a minor blast causing no damage.

4 September

A bomb exploded in a residential neighborhood of Kabul, killing at least two people, said the witnesses.

6 September

Fighter jets belonging to Afghanistan's Taliban rulers bombed the northern city of Taloqan, killing at least 12 civilians and wounding 26, said the Afghan opposition.

11 September

Unidentified-armed men attacked and killed a baker in Jehangira in Pakistan, said the police.

12 September

A boat carrying 40 suspected illegal Afghan immigrants capsized in the strait between Malaysia and Indonesia and one 60-year-old woman drowned, said the police.

iv

Three rockets fired from adjoining villages slammed into the Afghan capital's airport but caused no damage or casualties said the officials.

15 September

The villagers in Banda Ismailkhel allegedly killed two Afghans when the deceased and their accomplices had tried to kidnap a young girl from her house, said the eyewitnesses and police sources.

15 September

More than 40 Arab Afghan supporters of Osama Bin Laden were killed or lost their legs from mines during the recent battles that they fought along side the Taliban forces, said the reports.

17 September

The much sought after Arab dissident, Osama bin Ladin, reportedly escaped an attempt on his life a few weeks back when unidentified assailants ambushed his convoy in the southern Afghan province of Qandahar.

18 September

A Taliban commander, who claimed to be kidnapped, landed himself in controversy when parents of a boy lodged a complaint with the police that the commander tried to molest their son in Islamabad.

20 September

The six persons, who were taken into custody in Kurram Agency in connection with the bomb explosion in Islamabad, included the three Afghans who supposedly the crates of grapes in the truck in Afghanistan's Logar province.

24 September

The Taliban authorities in Afghanistan publicly hanged two men convicted of being involved in a series of recent bomb blasts in the Afghan capital, said the officials and witnesses.

24 September

The border security force arrested four persons as security has been tightened along the Pak-Afghan border following the bomb blast in Islamabad, said the border security forces.

27 September

The Afghan authorities hanged two more men accused of being involved in a string of recent bomb blasts in the capital, said the officials and witnesses.

26 September

Clashes between Afghanistan's Taliban militia and opposition forces have spread to within two or three kilometers of the border with Tajikistan, Russian border guards patrolling the zone told AFP.

27 September

24 Afghan children of an Afghan refugee Madrasa in Kacah Garhi camp were seriously injured when the roof of a class caved in.

29 September

Pakistan has provided list of 23 terrorists to Afghan authorities, who were hiding in Islamabad after committing heinous crimes in Pakistan, said Interior Minister Gen. Moin-ud-Din Haider at a press conference.



1 September

Afghan drug smugglers kidnapped eight Iranian villagers and four donkeys in the eastern province of Khorassan and were demanding 25,000 dollars in ransom, said press reports.

3 September

Taliban police publicly burned videotapes and compact disks (CDs) in the capital's sports stadium, reported Radio Shariat.

9 September

An earthquake of moderate intensity measuring five on International Richter Scale jolted Afghanistan.

12 September

In line with an instruction by the Taliban supreme leader, Mulla Muhammad Omar, 25 political and criminal prisoners were released from a prison in Kandahar town, said the reports.

14 September

Tajikistan has turned back 5,000 Afghans seeking to cross the river border and escape the ongoing fighting in their homeland, said the Afghan opposition.

21 September

Floods blocked Afghanistan's key Kabul-Jalalabad highway after heavy overnight rains in the war-torn country, said the travelers and Taliban officials.

22 September

Ninety people died in Badghis because of cholera while another infectious disease epidemic claimed 15 more lives.

30 September

More than 8,000 Afghans fleeing a Taliban offensive against the opposition in northeast Afghanistan have crossed into Pakistan, said the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

ATTAR Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Religi



News Summary- October 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

Another 280 Afghan refugees voluntarily returned to their homeland from that Qum province of Iran.

8 October

Taliban officials in northern Mazar-e-Sharif were optimistic about the opening of Hairatan border as the talks between Kabul and Tashkent progress for the revival of political and trade relations with neighboring Uzbekistan.

10 October

A private airline, based in the United Arab Emirates begun weekly flights to Afghanistan after United Nations sanctions grounded the country's national airlines, said the Afghan Planning Minister Qudratullah Jamal.

11 October

An anti-polio drive was launched in the whole of war-torn Afghanistan.

14 October

Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan Arif Ayub presented a cheque of Rs 7 million to the Taliban authorities for repair of roads in Kabul City, reported the Radio Kabul.

15 October

Releasing the dominant role an airforce plays in the outcome of a war, Ahmad Shah Masood, Commander of the Northern Alliance ordered the construction of a new airport in Karan-o-Manjan, a district in the northern province of Badakhshan.

17 October

8,148 Afghan refugees residing in the Iranian southern province of Shiraz have returned to their homeland during the last six-month under the voluntary repatriation program for refugees.

18 October

The Afghan government has put 41 natural gas wells in operation in northwestern province Jouzjan, reports Arian news agency.

18 October

The female campus of Afghan university and about 60 schools, language centers and computer institutes, which were closed by the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) on October 1, at Hayatabad in Peshawar, were allowed to start operation under a temporary arrangement.

18 October

The Taliban allowed a private bank in Afghanistan to be set up, which may start functioning within six months, an US-based trader currently visiting Kabul, told VOA.

29 October

Uzbekistan agreed to open its border with Afghanistan to facilitate businessmen of the two countries to carry out trade, said the Afghan embassy spokesman.

Military Developments

12 October

Taliban jets have carried out bombing operations against the opposition northern alliance positions in Jablus Seraj town the stronghold of Commander Ahmad Shah Masood, reports Radio Tehran.

12 October

The Northern Alliance is reported to have dispatched 3,000 fresh troops from Parwan to Takhar to dislodge the Taliban from Taloqan City.

15 October

Fierce fighting erupted in parts of Takhar province of Afghanistan as the opposition forces pushed back the Taliban militia from Namak Aab area, confirmed the Taliban and opposition sources.

16 October

The Afghan opposition said it recaptured two strategic districts in the northern Takhar province after intense fighting overnight, killing at least 40 Taliban soldiers, but the Taliban rejected the claims.

17 October

The Taliban forces beat back the opposition fighters in a counterattack and recaptured the areas, which had fallen to the Masood forces in Takhar and Kunduz provinces of Afghanistan, said senior Taliban officials.

21 October

Afghan opposition Northern Alliance claimed capturing hilltop from Taliban in northern Afghan province of Takhar.

22 October

The Taliban foiled an opposition attack on their positions in Kwajaghar district of Afghanistan's Takhar province, said the reports.

23 October

Following heavy fighting, the Afghan opposition United Front forces under the command of Ahmad Shah Masood dislodged Taliban forced from the strategic Farkhar Gorge leading to Taloqan, the capital of Takhar province in northeastern Afghanistan.

24 October

Northern Alliance claimed to have captured a river crossing west of Taloqan, severing the connection to the major city of Kunduz that the Taliban had captured three years ago.

26 October

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban wrested some key districts in northern Kunduz province near the Tajikistan border from the opposition, said the Afghan Islamic Press.

27 October

Afghan opposition forces under commander of Ahmad Shah Masood claimed to have driven the ruling Taliban out of serveral positions around the northeastern town of Taloqan in heavy fighting.

30 October

The opposition Northern Alliance claimed to have killed 30 Taliban during fighting for the control of Chal district in Takhar province of Afghanistan, reported Radio Tehran.



2 October

Iran refused permission to a Baghdad-bound relief plane of the Afghan Taliban regime to fly over its territory, said the Afghan Foreign Ministry statement in Kabul

3 October

The Swiss government imposed sanctions on the regimes of Afghanistan and Myanmar, in line with decisions by the United Nations and the European Union, said the Swiss Foreign Minister in Switzerland.

3 October

Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister acknowledged informal talks with representatives of Taliban, saying the two sides discussed non-interference in each other's countries.

4 October

Masood said he would fight on despite setbacks, accused Pakistan of helping Taliban, and that humanitarian-political crisis griped Central Asia as Taliban advance.

6 October

India and Russia have begun mapping out a common strategy to counter the threat from Afghanistan's Taliban regime, said highly placed sources.

7 October

The commanders of Afghan opposition Northern Alliance in Mashed held a crucial meeting devising the future course of action and coordination for checking the advances of Taliban.

8 October

Hundreds of Afghan women living in France held a protest demonstration to condemn the policies of Taliban, reported Radio Tehran.

9 October

Jnited States welcomed Indo-Russia cooperation and formation of a joint commission on Afghanistan.

10 October

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban condemned fresh moves by the United States to impose more economic sanctions on the war-shattered country, accusing Washington of trampling human rights by adopting a policy of coercion.

11 October

Harakat-e-Islami Afghanistan rejected Taliban's claim about complete capture of Takhar province.

11 October

Tajikistan has put measures into place to prepare for an influx of refugees from Afghanistan, where the latest fighting has uprooted about 150,000 people, said the UN refugee agency.

12 October

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban accused the opposition of violating a cease-fire, which had been brokered by the United Nations to vaccinate Afghan children against polio.

16 October

The chief of the Afghan ruling council, Mulla Muhammad Rabbani, assured Uzbek President Islam Karimov that the Taliban pose no threat to any regional state and want good relations with all neighbouring countries, said the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan.

19 October

Uzbekistan is prepared to reopen a key crossing point with a stable Afghanistan, said an Uzbek minister, in a softening of the country's stance.

20 October

Afghanistan ruling Taliban and Uzbekistan agreed on exchange of high level delegations to remove misunderstanding and improve bilateral relations, said the diplomatic sources.

25 October

The Afghan anti-Taliban alliance rejected as insincere a recent offer of talks by the Afghan regime, saying the religious militia was pursuing its own political aims.

31 October

Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil accused the United Nations of inciting Afghanistan's beleaguered opposition forces to war.

Security Matters

3 October

Taliban publicly hanged three men in Kandahar for murder and robbery, reported Taliban spokesman Mulla Abdul Hayee Mutmaen.

5 October

The jets of the Islamic Air Force of Taliban bombed the military posts of the leader of Hizb-e-Wahdat Ustad Mohaqiq in the northern provinces of Sar-e-pul and Samangan, inflicting heavy damages in men and material.

5 October

A powerful bomb went off overnight inside the Afghan Communications Ministry in the center of Kabul, shattering windows but causing no casualties.

14 October

Taliban jets pounded northern Afghanistan's Samangan province, killing one civilian and injuring several others, said an opposition spokesman.

17 October

An explosion rocked the police headquarters in Kandahar, southern Afghanistan, injuring four people, said the Afghan Islamic Press.

19 October

Afghan health authorities said that besides other diseases, at least three million people in Afghanistan are suffering from Malaria, reported BBC.

19 October

Taliban banned all sports played between late afternoon and evening to avoid disturbing prayers, Taliban-controlled radio Shariat reported.

20 October

A large number of prisoners, many of them belonging to opposition parties, escaped from after one of its boundary walls collapsed as a result of an explosion in Kandahar.

31 October

The Islamabad police arrested six Afghans for not having passports and other required documents, said a police report.



2 October

At least 42 people were killed and 15 others injured when a roof of a house collapsed during a wedding ceremony in the eastern Afghan town of Khogiani, reported the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

3 October

Drought-related hunger and cholera killed 137 people in war-ravaged Afghanistan, reported the United Nations.

6 October

Hundreds of Afghan refugees families have crossed into Pakistan during the last four days as tension gripped Badakhshan province of Afghanistan after Taliban and the Northern Alliance forces prepared for renewed fighting, said the arriving refugees.

13 October

A disease, which recently killed 15 people in Afghanistan's remote central highlands, was identified as a deadly form of malaria, said UN officials.

13 October

According to the Taliban authorities 15 to 20 families per day are arriving from Nahrain, Burka and Eshkamish to Baghlan province.

29 January

Two powerful bombs exploded in Karachi, Pakistan killing five and injuring 38. The report said most victims are Afghan nationals.

Other News

3 January

Pakistan political authorities sent 25 Afghan nationals to their homeland who were expelled from Saudi Arabia for illegally staying in the Arab Kingdom.

12 January

The Taliban have launched efforts for the country's participation in the forthcoming Sydney Olympics, urging the International Olympics Committee to decide the matter in the light of ground realities in Afghanistan.

13 January

The Taliban have changed the capital of Nimroz from Zaranj to Ghurghuri, which is located in the central part of the Province.

13 January

The Taliban government has opened the Nawa pass, a border exist post between Pakistan and Afghanistan, as an alternative route for the convenience of the people travelling to and from Pakistan via Chatral.

14 January

A dead body of an Afghan refugee was recovered from the village of Babraki, Hassanabad, in NWFP

19 January

Jordan authorities have released four suspected Afghans for lack of evidence for alleged terrorist activities in Jordan.

14 October

More than 2,000 Afghan refugees fled fighting in the northeast of the country over the past five days, crossing into Pakistan at the main Torkham border point, said a UN refugee agency spokesman.

15 October

Taliban religious police arrested 64 people for gambling and staging dog, quail and cockfights in a Kabul City slum, reported the official Radio Sharia.

21 October

The fate of about 15,000 Afghan students of 54 educational institutions, closed by the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) on October 1 in Peshawar.

26 October

The Taliban released 124 Northern Alliance prisoners of war from Kandahar prison, reported Radio Kabul.

28 October

The number of Afghans fleeing fighting in northeastern Afghanistan rose sharply this week with some 5,000 refugees arriving in Pakistan.

29 October

In a major anti-narcotics drive, Taliban destroyed 25 heroin-manufacturing factories in Helmand province.

30 October

Reports from eastern Afghanistan spoke of a broad day robbery on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway, reported Radio Tehran.

ACBAR Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relig



News Summary- November 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

2 November

The Taliban government decided to close a drug narket in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, said the Deputy Government Maulavi Sadr-c- Azam.

2 November

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) set aside an amount of \$950,000 million for the provision of food, shelter and medicines to the new Afghan refugees coming to Pakistan, reported the VOA.

6 November

A large number of Afghan scholars and lectures returned home from abroad and are now educating the country's youth, said the ruling Taliban militia of Afghanistan.

6 November

The Taliban demanded the return of the Koh-i-Noor-diamond to Afghanistan, saying that the British Queen should hand back the gem 'as soon as possible' so that it can be displayed in Kabul's bombed-out museum, reported the Observer, Luke 'Harding.

9 November

The United Nations started providing foodstuff to the people of Ghor and other provinces in central and eastern Afghanistan, said Khalid Mansoor a spokesman for the World Food Programme in an interview with the Voice of America.

10 November

The Afghan Taliban opened Kabul-Maidanshar Road for traffic in Maidan Wardak province, southwest of Kabul after completion of repair work.

14 November

A V-Sat Link has been established between Pakistan and Afghanistan through the involvement of International Airline Transport Association (IATA) for safety of flights.

17 November

Demining operations in Afghanistan have not been stopped but cut down by 50% due to paucity of funds.

17 November

Mine sweeping operations continue in Afghanistan with the assistance of international organisations, said Incharge of Anti-Mines Operations Atiqullah.

18 November

International aid agencies are assessing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border where about ten thousand people are estimated to have sought refuge from the fighting in Northern Afghanistan.

20 November

The European Commission has contributed over Euro 400 million in grants to the Afghan people for alleviating their sufferings resulting out of the 20 years of war.

Turkmenistan has started work on a \$2.5 million power project designed to supply electricity to Taliban-held northern Afghanistan, said the official sources.

30 November

The federal government allowed the NWFP government to export directly some commodities to Afghanistan and the Republics Central Asia (CARs) provided the entire business is made in US dollars, reported BBC.



2 November

Taliban and opposition Northern Alliance exchanged six prisoners of war each in the western Afghan province of Herat.

14 November

An opposition commander defected to Taliban along with 150 of his fighters, reported a Pakistan-based Afghan news service.

16 November

Mahmoud Surkha, a former Afghan opposition commander joined the Taliban with 40 armed and 30 unarmed soldiers because of alleged Russian support for commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

18 November

Two more commanders of the opposition joined the Taliban forces in the northern Afghanistan. It was the second defection from the opposition in a week, the official Afghan news agency reported.

22 November

There has been an outbreak of fighting in the northeast between the Taliban and the opposition Northern Alliance.

30 November

The Afghan opposition captured two villages outside the capital of northern Takhar province after a bitter overnight battle against Taliban troops, said the opposition spokesman.

Political Developments

3 November

Afghanistan's controversial seat at the United Nations will stay with the ousted Rabbani government for another year in a major blow to the Taliban, said the opposition officials.

3 November

The Taliban warned that any missile strike by the United States against Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan in retaliation for last month's attack on an American destroyer in Yemen would be a grave mistake.

3 November

More than a dozen Afghan and Pakistani nationals were arrested for illegally entering Pakistan, and crossing over to Afghanistan through Torkham border, said the political authorities.

4 November

The United Nations rejected the Taliban govt's latest bid for Afghanistan's seat in the UN, reported VoA.

4 November

The opposition Northern Alliance in Afghanistan offered talks to the ruling Taliban for a peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict reported BBC.

5 November

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and opposition officials agreed to peace talks sponsored by the United Nations, said a top UN official.

5 November

Afghan opposition military commander Ahmad Shah Masood held a meeting with Shia leaders Karim Khalil and Sayed Hussain Anwari in his Panjsher valley stronghold to take decisions on activating new frontlines against the ruling Taliban.

5 November

The United States assured the Afghan government that presently it has no plan to launch an attack on Afghanistan, said a senior Taliban official.

6 November

Chief of his own faction of Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar initiated a fresh drive to assemble his countrymen on one forum to get rid of both the Taliban and Northern Alliance.

::

The NWFP government scaled the Pak-Afghan border at various entry points and imposed ban on the entry of the new refugees into the region.

13 November

Taliban urged Pakistan to reopen its frontier to refugees and warned Russia against attacking their war-battered homeland.

14 November

The Afghanistan's seat in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) will remain vacant till an end to the on-going civil war in that country, diplomatic sources confided to The Frontier Post in Islamabad.

14 November

Qatar invited both Afghan warring sides to send their delegations to participate in the OIC summit, ported Voice of America (VOA).

18 November

The Afghan opposition rejected the validity of certain media reports and Taliban claims that recent defector had accused Russian troops and advisors of supporting the Northern Alliance.

19 November

Hundreds of Afghans entered Pakistan following a meeting between the officials from the two countries to ease the restriction on movement across the Pak-Afghan border, said the officials.

20 November

After a tough line by Pakistan to open its border for the Afghan refugees, the Taliban said they were holding talks with Uzbekistan on reopening the 'order for trade and business.

21 November

The ruling Taliban militia released 137 Shia Muslims, who had been held prisoners for nearly two years.

22 November

The deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan, Mulla Abdul Rahman Zaid held talks with a Canadian High Commissioner in Islamabad, reported Radio Kabul.

22 November

The Taliban and Kazakhstan's ambassadors to Pakistan met for the first time to discuss terrorism, drug smuggling and a broad-based government in Afghanistan, said a private Afghan news service.

24 November

General Khudaidad Hazara a minister in the cabinet of ousted government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani announced support for the Taliban, saying he wants to bring the Shia-dominated Hazara closer to the Taliban.

24 November

Kazakhstan said it is establishing regular contact with the Taliban, a group it has accused in the past of posing a threat to the stability of Central Asia.

27 November

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have imposed restrictions on foreigners leaving the country by land, said the senior United Nations and Taliban officials.

27 November

The United States is considering cooperation with Russia to launch military strikes against Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, reported BBC.

29 November

Moscow called on the UN Security Council to harden sanctions against Kabul's ruling Taliban regime during a visit by the UN's special envoy to Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell.

29 November

Iran is unwilling to recognise the Taliban government in Afghanistan for several justifiable reasons.



14 November

The United Arab Emirates continued drive against Afghan nationals, who have been staying illegally there and has sent 140 people to Peshawar.

17 November

The Taliban arrested former Finance Minister Dr.Hamidullah Tarzi in Kabul accusing him of selling property without authorisation while his own property has been taken over by state security.

Four Afghan refugees have died on the other side of the Pak-Afghan border due to harsh climate, following Pakistan's refusal to let new refugees in, said the eyewitnesses.

18 November

The Taliban guards briefly closed an Afghan border to foreign travelers, after Pakistani guards used batons to prevent a large number of Afghan refugees from entering, said the witnesses.

19 November

Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Naeem Khan said that the border with Afghanistan had not been completely closed; rather people's movement had been regulated.

22 November

The political administration in Landi Kotal has taken steps to streamline the passage of old Afghan refugees besides those holding valid travel documents, said the officials at Torkham border.

23 November

A powerful bomb exploded near the information ministry building in Kabul but caused no casualties, said the officials of the ruling Taliban militia.

25 November

Afghan refugees will have to obtain National Identity Cards on payment of Rs100 per head to the Municipal Committee, District Manshehra. Deputy Commissioner Manshehra said this.

25 November

Russian troops patrolling the frontier between Tajikistan and Afghanistan fought a gang of six armed men who crossed from Afghanistan and forced them back over the border, said a military spokesman.



2 November

Afghanistan currency, the Afghani, plunged 10 percent as fears of a US strike against the war-torn country loomed large, said the moneychangers.

5 November

Afghanistan's Taliban questioned the ownership of an ancient mummy, recovered by Pakistani police from a gang of smugglers in Quetta city, reported IRNA.

7 November

As many as 1,500 refugees from Afghanistan have gathered at the Tajik-Afghan border in the Pyandzh border guard unit's zone of responsibility, reported Interfax.

11 November

Another 692 Afghan refugees entered Pakistan via Torkham border post despite the imposition of ban on their entry, said the sources.

14 November

The Russian border troops in Tajikistan said that two to three thousand Afghan refugees gathered at border with Tajikistan owing to fighting in northeastern Afghanistan and tried to enter that country.

16 November

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) temporarily suspended the assisted repatriation of Afghan refugees due to financial constraints with effect from November 2, 2000.

16 November

A total of 152,338 Afghan refugees have been repatriated from Iran.

19 November

The recently formed Expel Refugees Movement (ERM) has demanded the government to confine the movement of Afghan refugees to camps.

20 November

As many as 100 Afghan nationals, staying illegally in Saudi Arab have been air-lifted from Riyadh to Peshawar from where they were deported to Afghanistan.

21 November

Taking strict notice of the influx of aliens, the Lahore High Court ordered the deportation of seven Afghans at the expense of their master Ahmad Shah involved in a dacoity case.

In the wake of heightened Chinese interest in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, a four-member team of scholars from the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) is leaving for Kabul to meet Taliban and have a better understanding of the situation in Afghanistan.

25 November

Former Afghan communist leader and Defense Minister, Mohammad Aslam Watanjar died of cancer in Ukraine at the age of 56.

25 November

Seventeen passengers were killed in road accident in central Afghan province of Bamiyan, reported Taliban-controlled Bakhtar news agency.

27 November

Forty per cent of the children among newly arrived Afghan refugees at Shamshatoo camp near Peshawar are suffering from malnurition, stated a medical officer at the camp.

ACBAR

Agency Co-ordinating Body for Alghan Religi



News Summary- December 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

4 December

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved the export of cement, rice, medicines, GI pipes, hardware and glass sheets to Afghanistan and Central Asian States on irrevocable Letters of Credit (LC) opened in foreign exchange.

5 December

Turkmenistan and Afghanistan have begun work on a power supply project from the Turkmen border to Shibarghan area in northern Afghanistan.

5 December

The Afghan Ministry of Planning, pursuant to a new decree issued by the Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar, has declared it obligatory for all citizens to allocate 25% of their zakat for the welfare of disabled persons, said a United Nations spokesman.

5 December

The United States donated 60,000 tones of wheat to feed poor Afghans, hit by the worst drought in 30 years, said the World Food Programme.

6 December

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, has transferred 16,000 Afghan refugees who fled to Pakistan to a new refugee village in the northwest of the country, said the agency.

6 December

The World Food Programme (WFP) has stated that 60,000 tonnes of wheat has reached Pakistan from USA as a relief for the drought-hit Afghans.

7 December

The World Food Program in Islamabad acknowledged receipt of 60,000 tones of wheat donated by the United States to help feed over 2.3 million drought-affected Afghans.

9 December

Pakistan agreed to export 300,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan at the rate of Rs 8,700 per tonne, a senior official told The News.

13 December

An agreement for the export of 0.3 million tones of wheat was signed between the Punjab Food Department and the Afghanistan government in Lahore.

16 December

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has adjusted some 16,000 new Afghan refugees in Shamshato refugees village, near Peshawar.

20 December

New funding of over 2.5 million dollars has cushioned the budget shortfall of the United Nations Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA).

20 December

A multi-million dollar package to restart mine clearance in Afghanistan was announced by the United Nations as workers were evacuated ahead of fresh sanctions.

23 December

The value of Afghan currency has further declined as a result of new sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council on the Taliban.

23 December

The UN plans to start sending its international staff back to Afghanistan from Sunday despite new Security Council sanctions on the ruling Taliban.

25 December

Iran has distributed 40 tones of humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees stranded for around three months on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, reported IRNA news.

27 December

American relief agency International Foundation of Hope has opened a boys' school at Wazir Akbar Khan, main locality of the Afghan Capital, Kabul, reported Voice of America (VOA).

Military Developments

10 December

Afghanistan's Taliban attacked an opposition stronghold in northern Samangan province and advanced several kilometres, said an opposition spokesman.

31 December

Taliban warplanes bombed the Northern Alliance positions in the Panjsher valley. According to proopposition sources, attacks by Taliban jet fighters were still continuing, reported Voice of German (VOG).

31 December

The Northern Alliance drove out the Taliban forces from a strategic town in the central Bamyan province of Afghanistan, killing at least two fighters of the ruling militia and capturing 30 others.

31 December

Taliban warplanes bombed the Northern Alliance positions in the Panjsher valley. According to opposition sources, attacks by Taliban jet fighters were still continuing, reported Voice of German (VOG).

Political Developments

7 December

The UN is considering another seven sanctions against the ruling Taliban militia in Afghanistan for their refusal to hand over Osama, said the US officials.

9 December

The United Nations is considering another seven sanctions against the Taliban militia in Afghanistan for their refusal to hand over "indicted terrorist Osama bin Laden". The new curbs include a unilateral arms embargo against the Taliban.

9 December

Taliban and the opposition Northern Alliance began indirect peace talks in Ashkhabad, where they were both attending celebrations of Turkmenistan's neutral status.

10 December

The Taliban want the Security Council to reject the proposed sanctions because they will hurt common Afghans, said Abdul Hakim Mujahid, the ruling militia's envoy to the United Nations.

11 December

The Afghan Taliban administration has sent letters to the heads of state of the world, parliamentarians and scholars asking them to raise their voice against possible American and Russian sponsored sanctions on Afghanistan.

12 December

The Afghan opposition praised the proposal by Russia and the United States to impose an arms embargo on the Taliban militia for sheltering groups accused of terrorism.

12 December

Some United Nations staff in war-torn Afghanistan have begun leaving as a precaution against possible protests over new UN sanctions, said a spokeswoman.

13 December

Three more UN personnel left Kabul for Pakistan, including two officials of the United Nations Special Mission for Afghanistan (UNSMA), said an official.

16 December

The United States has said that reports about possible US attack on Afghanistan are based on speculations and media reports having not truth.

20 December

The United Nations has suspended its repatriation programme for Afghan refugees in Iran ahead of tough new sanctions likely to be put in place against the Taliban regime.

20 December

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia renewed its pledge to protect foreign aid workers in Kabul, hours after the UN's international staff pulled out fearing reprisals against sanctions.

20 December

The United Nations has withdrawn all foreign staff from Afghanistan amid concern over potentially violent protests against tough new sanctions likely to be announced this day, said the officials.

20 December

Afghan opposition leader Ahmad Shah Masood has been accused of executing a military commander, Abdul Hameed Akhundzada, and five of his men.

20 December

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was poised to adopt a resolution imposing comprehensive arms embargo and other restrictions against the Taliban-controlled territory.

20 December

The Afghan opposition welcomed the toughening of UN sanctions against the ruling Taliban but said that more punitive measures were needed to force the Kabul regime to make peace.

21 December

The ruling Taliban militia reacted swiftly to news of harsh new United Nations sanctions by ordering Afghans to boycott products from the two sponsors of the measure- the United States and Russia.

21 December

The Security Council gave Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia a month to surrender Osama bin Laden and close alleged terrorism training camps or suffer new sanctions.

21 December

In a sharp reaction to the newly-imposed sanctions against Afghanistan, Taliban announced to boycott the UN-sponsored talks aimed at finding a durable solution to the on going civil war and establishment of a broad-based government in the country.

28 December

The Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar warned his countrymen that the United States

and Russia have a plan to isolate Muslims worldwide, beginning with Afghanistan.



5 December

Commandent Bajaur Scouts Colonel Abdul Matin Afridi, has said that the ban on the entry of Afghan refugees on all the Pak-Afghan borders in Bajaur Agency have further tightened with the strict supervision of Afghan refugees.

6 December

Abdullah Jan Wahidi, Afghan opposition's chief commander in northern Laghman province and his two colleagues were shot dead in an attack near the Panjsher valley, said a report.

11 December

At least 18 people including two policemen were injured in a clash between the participants of a rally of the Revolutionary Afghan Women's Association (RAWA) and activities of a religious group at Karachi Company. Islamabad.

13 December

The co-pilot and two stewards from an Afghan jet, which was hijacked earlier this year and diverted, to Britain have been tortured since returning home, reported a British newspaper.

17 December

Saboor Salehzai, a translator at the BBC office in Kabul. was arrested by the authorities in the wake of a demand by the government for his dismissal as a BBC employee and taken to an unknown destination.

25 December

Taliban Supreme Leader Mulla Mohammad Omar released 190 opposition prisoners to allow them to celebrate Eidul Fitr with their families, said a report in Kabul.

27 December

The Afghan opposition has released 14 Taliban prisoners in response to a similar gesture by the ruling Islamic militia ahead of the Eidul Fitr festival, said a report.

Other News

8 December

Some 50 Afghan nationals held a protest demonstration in front of Saudi Consulate in Karachi against non-issuance of Umrah visas to them.

8 December

The Afghan capital and other parts of the country received the year's first snowfall, bringing relief to the drought-hit residents and raising hopes for a good harvest next year.

9 December

Landmine sweeping agencies closed their operational activities in Afghanistan due to funds shortage and sent their staff on one-month leave, reported Online. The fund shortage has also resulted in the suspension of the mine awareness campaign too.

12 December

The new casual wage labour survey by WFP showed that Afghan purchasing power of wheat was down in all major cities.

16 December

The United Nations international Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in Afghanistan is closing down at the end of the current month due to lack of funds.

17 December

One of Afghanistan's leading agronomists, Abdul Wakil, has died at the age of eighty. He was a specialist on modified seeds and grafting.

23 December

Thousands of displaced people are streaming into the western Afghan city of Herat due to a cruel drought, said the UN.





Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief



News Summary - February 2000



Aid and Economic Developments

1 February

More then 50 people have died recently of a mysterious epidemic in Dare-Suf district of Samangan Province, northern Afghanistan. According to Dr Ranna Graber, technical officer, WHO in Islamabad some 1,600 people between 5 and 25 years of age have fallen sick and need medical aid but said they could not reach the affected villages as the areas are teeming with anti-personal mines and they do not have enough resources to ensure safe passage of their medical teams through the routes.

2 February

Japan has decided to contribute US \$ 1 million to the ICRC Programme for Afghanistan

2 February

The German member of parliament and vice-president of the parliamentary assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Willy Wimmer, met Chairman of Taliban ruling council Mulla Mohammad Rabbani and discussed the situation in Afghanistan. Rabbani appraised the German of Taliban government policies, seeking the world community's help for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

5 February

The shipment of hundreds of MT of Afghan transit trade goods has started from Karachi port to Afghanistan after Pakistan Chief Executives, General Parvez Musharraf, ordered the release of the stranded goods, said a Taliban official.

9 February

The Swedish government has pledged over US \$ 10 million dollars for humanitarian aid programmes for Afghanistan during the current year, states the UN weekly update.

11 February

Afghanistan is facing a major food crisis, which is expected to worsen after a shortfall of 1.1 million MT of food by 30 June 2000. According to M. A. Sackett, Country Director WFP, the local consumption of food in Afghanistan is approximately 4.1 million MT per annum while available figures are only 3 million MT per annum.

15 February

The Saudi Arabian Aid Agency has stopped aid to Afghanistan in education and health sectors as well as withdrawing its workers from that country, reports Radio Tehran.

16 February

Turkey continues to help Afghanistan in order to ease the negative effects of war on the country. Turkey has provided US\$ 20,000 to cover implementation costs of a project via United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Assistance of Afghanistan (UNOCHA).

16 February

France handed over a consignment of 7,000 tonnes of wheat valued at 1.3 million dollars to Pakistan, reported French Embassy officials. The wheat has been provided through the World Food Programme as a donation to aid Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and to support development activities.

17 February

Pakistan authorities have started negotiation with international donors for the establishment of a trust to sponsor the Afghan University, the only higher educational institution for male and female Afghan student in Pakistan.

18 February

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban allowed women to work with the World Food Programme to conduct surveys in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and the eastern city of Jalalabad, UN official said. The WFP employed 600 female surveyors in Mazar and 300 in Jalalabad between September and December 1999 to conduct city-wide house-to-house surveys.

19 February

Pakistan will have exported 112,200 tons of rice to Afghanistan during the current financial year, 1999-2000 and earn \$33,302 million foreign exchange.

20 February

The Afghan Co-ordination Bureau (ANCB) will make an all out effort to bring about a uniform curriculum and co-ordination among different educational centres for Afghan refugees, said the Chairman Muhammad Shah Bariz.

21 February

The ruling Taliban movement and a US telecommunications company have set up Afghanistan's first international digital telephone system.

23 February

The United Nations World Food Programme sent 13 tonnes of food aid across Afghanistan's frontlines to tens of thousands of people stranded in the remote opposition stronghold of the Panjshir valley.

27 February

The Taliban authorities have started shipping wheat from Pakistan to Afghanistan. A Taliban official at the Afghan embassy in Islamabad said 3,500 tone of wheat had been shipped to Afghanistan so far.

Military Developments

Fighting continued in Dare-Suf district of Samangan Province between Taliban and the Opposition with at least 25 civilians killed and 20 others injured seriously.

18 February

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have massed thousands of fighters for a major offensive against rival forces entrenched north of Kabul, a reported quoting opposition sources said.

Political Developments

1 February

he UN Security Council is likely to allow the Afghan Ariana Airlines to airlift intending Afghan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

1 February

The Chief of Taliban Ruling Council, Mulla Mohammad Rabbani, along with a high level delegation arrived in Islamabad for important bilateral talks and crucial consultations on regional issues with the Pakistani leadership.

2 February

The UN Secretary-General's new Envoy for Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, arrived in Islamabad on his initial listening tour to the region to acquaint himself with the situation in Afghanistan.

2 February

The Chief of Taliban Ruling Council, Mulla Mohammad Rabbani, in a meeting with the Pakistani officials said that the Taliban government is ready to endure even more economic sanctions but would not yield to any undue demand by the US and its Western allies.

7 February

The Taliban Supreme Leader Mulla Mohammad Omar, issued a fresh order that armed guards will travel on all future Ariana flight.

6 February

The US has welcomed the Pakistan Chief Executive, Gen. Parvez Musharraf's intention to visit Afghanistan to solve the Osama issue, said the BBC.

6 February

The Taliban condemn the hijacking of an Afghan plane saying it is the first time ever an Afghan plane had been hijacked.

8 February

Speaking from Kandahar the Taliban leader, Mulla Mohammad Omar, said that if the hijackers wanted Ismail Khan to be freed the Taliban will never accept their demand and neither negotiate with them. Omar also asked the British authorities to handle the situation themselves.

8 February

Former Afghan President, Burhanddin Rabbani, and his top military commander Ahmad Shah Masood met Francesc Vendrell, the newly appointed UN Peace envoy for Afghanistan in Dushanbe.

8 February

The Taliban Supreme Leader Mulla Mohammed Omar stated that there was discriminatory world silence over the hijacking of an Afghan commercial airliner. He stated that there would have been a chorus of condemnation if a plane from another country was hijacked.

10 February

A Taliban delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister, Abdul Rehman Zahid arrived in Copenhagen, on an official visit. Denmark will become the first Europe country to make official contacts with the Taliban government.

14 February

UN Secretary-General's new personal representative to Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, met the leader of Hezbi-Wahdat, Ustad Karim Khalili in Tehran.

16 February

The Taliban government has launched a protest with the government of Pakistan for not referring to it as Afghan government rather recognised it as "the Taliban led government" or "Taliban regime", in an official communication received by the Foreign Office.

17 February

The OIC delegation has conveyed concern over continued hostilities in Afghanistan to Taliban and called for intra-Afghan talks to end the 20-year long Afghan conflict. The delegation, led by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Dr. Muhammad Jawad Zarif, held talks with the Afghan ambassador to Pakistan, Maulavi Syed Mohammad Haqqani in Islamabad. Zarif told the Taliban envoy that the OIC visit aimed at finding ways for arranging talks among Afghan factions.

21 February

The supreme leader of the Taliban militia, Mulla Mohammad Omar criticised the UN for adopting double standards while dealing with Afghanistan. Mulla Omar was reacting to the UN Secretary-General's recent criticism of the Taliban in the wake of reports that the Taliban had bombed civilians in the Panjshir valley.

23 February

A delegation of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees arrived in Kabul to discuss the repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan.

23 February

The UN refugee agency and Tehran have agreed to work toward the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees living in Iran. Afghan refugees who did not have proper papers would be given six months to register their presence and either ask to be sent home or stay in Iran.

24 February

The UN has signed an agreement with the Iranian government that could see the repatriation of more than a third of the 1.4 mission Afghan refugees living in Iran.

25 February

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities rejected a UN report that the ruling malitia was collecting tax on drug production.

26 February

Pakistani Interior Minister will visit Afghanistan ahead of a planned visit by Chief Executive General Parviz Musharraf. He will proceed to Kabul in the next few days to pave the way for the Chief Executive's announced trip to Afghanistan.

27 February

The Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) has invited the Afghanistan ruling Taliban and Opposition Northern Alliance for an important meeting in Jeddah on March 6.

29 February

Former Afghan President Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, through a letter addressing General Parviz Musharraf, has urged Pakistan to adopt a neutral stand for the resolution of the Afghan conflict.

Security Matters

1 February

Taliban troops have gone to Russia to provide reinforcements for beleaguered Chechen guerrillas, a senior Taliban Commander said.

6 February

An Afghan Airline plane with 186 persons on board, including 14 crew members, was hijacked during an internal flight from Kabul to Mazar-i-Sharif. The hijacked Afghan plane landed at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport at 1841 GMT for refuel. The hijackers released thirteen passengers including one child five women and four sick people and left for Kazakistan.

7 February

Kazakistan claimed that Chechen fighters are involved in the hijacking of the Afghan Ariana Airlines passenger plane.

7 February

The Opposition has denied involvement in the hijacking of Ariana airlines plane.

7 February

The Taliban Supreme Leader Mulla Mohammad Omar ruled out negotiations with hijackers holding an Ariana commercial jet. Omar blamed Opposition forces led by Ahmad Shah Masood, for the hijacking.

7 February

The hijackers of the Afghan plane want the release of Ismail Khan, an Afghan Opposition detained by the Taliban, said the Afghan Islamic Press news agency but so far the hijackers have made no public demands.

7 February

Two rockets slammed into eastern Jalalabad narrowly missing the headquarters of the Taliban's divisional security department but did not cause any injuries because the office in the area were closed.

9 February

The Taliban have arrested several Ariana airline officials who were responsible for security checks on the flight that was hijacked to London.

9 February

A bomb exploded outside the Interior Ministry in Kabul, smashing windows in nearby buildings but causing no causalities, Taliban officials reported.

10 February

The four-day Afghan hijack drama has come to an end in London. The hijackers surrendered to police after an agonising waiting game. The motives for hijacking are still unclear. So far 74 people of the 164 are seeking asylum in Britain.

13 February

Thousands of spectators gathered in Kandahar to watch a 10 year old boy execute his father's murderer and a highway man have a hand and foot chopped off.

13 February

The Taliban warned Britain that to grant refugee status to the Afghan asylum seekers that were hostages on a hijacked Ariana Airlines plane would encourage terrorism. The Taliban would welcome all the passengers home and those who have asked for asylum would be welcomed not punished.

17 February

The United States has launched a fresh, 'get-Osama' mass awareness campaign using daily use items to lure people for assistance to arrest the Arab billionaire. The advertisements in Pashto, Urdu, Dari and English languages repeat Washington's resolve to give five million US dollars as reward money and keep the names of the informers secret for helping the US in leading to the arrest of Osama. Under the campaign, special boxes in green colour with a message 'Reward for Justice' and Osama's portrait are reported to have been given to visitors at the US missions in Pakistan.

19 February

Controversy surrounded the death of an Afghan national who was described as a former army general by his political party and family following the recovery of his body by the police in Chamkani. The Milli Mubarisin Islami Party of Afghanistan, a small party of Afghan nationalists, said deceased General Merajuddin Qadri who was a member of its central committee was kidnapped by unknown people near his home at Guli Baba in Tehkal Payan. A party statement said he was murdered and his body was found later at night from the limits of the Chamkani police station.

20 February

The district administration sealed off the headquarters of an Afghan organisation in Satellite Town in Quetta to cleanse the provincial capital of illegal immigrants.

20 February

A bomb blast created panic in the Afghan capital Kabul, but there were no reports of any casualties. Afghan sources in Islamabad said devices were kept in a nullah in front of Kabul Hotel.

21 February

The political administration of Khyber Agency arrested an Arab national while he was struggling to illegally enter Afghanistan on Pak-Afghan border at Torkham.

22 February

A powerful explosion rocked the Kabul airport. There were no casualties in the blast, which occurred in an ammunition depot in the eastern part of the airport at around 7.00 p.m.

24 February

The Pakistani authorities ordered the closure of an Afghan Shia group, Harakt-i-Islami Afghanistan following infighting in its ranks.

25 February

The Pakistani government has decided to close down offices of all Afghan organisations based in Pakistan. The Interior Ministry ordered all provincial governments to dismantle the communication systems of all former Jehadie organisations affiliated with the various Afghan parties.